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Man, 51, allegedly sexually abused minor on Tinian. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

CHCC goes to the high court

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 'No doctor or patient should worry about healthcare in CNMI'

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has sought to reverse a trial court decision to deny the dismissal of a malpractice lawsuit filed against it.

The corporation, through the Office of the Attorney General, has filed a notice of appeal with the Supreme Court, with the intention to reverse the decision of Superior Court Judge Joseph N. Camacho that de-

See CHCC on Page 4

Hurricane Irma begins assault on Florida Keys

By TAMARA LUSH and JAY REEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Hurricane Irma began its assault on Florida early Sunday with the storm's northern eyewall reaching the lower Florida Keys as a powerful Category 4 storm.

Irma lashed the area with maximum sustained winds near 130 mph (215 kph) and the U.S. National Hurricane Center said it was expected to remain a powerful storm as it moved through the Florida Keys and near the state's west coast.

See IRMA on Page 4

Rota hosts Field of Heroes rites

By RICHELLE ALDABE
INTERN REPORTER

Rota commemorated its second commemoration of the tragic events of 9/11 last Friday, with particular focus on the many victims and the heroism of the first responders.

The 2nd Annual Field of Heroes ceremony commemorated the tragic events of 9/11 at the Cpl. Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Veteran's Memorial Park under the baton of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and in the presence of Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, the many department heads, and executives of TanHoldings Corp.

It has been 16 years since the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon.

Present at Friday's ceremony on Rota were the Buck Battalion, Department of Public

See ROTA on Page 4

American flags are posted at the American Memorial Park on Saipan in preparation for today's 2nd Annual Field of Heroes ceremony. The event seeks to unite the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota community to remember the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Rohingya insurgents declared a monthlong truce.
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Relief supplies and cleanup crews began arriving in southern Mexico.
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Local

Festival of Cultures pulls through despite bad weather

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the harsh winds and pouring rain, the International Festival of Cultures pushed through to showcase the many different cultures that have taken root on Saipan.

Last Saturday was the opening night of the annual International Festival of Culture in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The festival was originally set for the first Saturday of September, Sept. 2, but was postponed because of the threatening weather conditions.

Last Saturday, the alarming weather condition did not lead to another postponement. Instead, the Marianas Visitors Authority decided to continue with the festivities with a few alterations.

According to MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas, a Parade of Cultures was set to kick off the festivities but it was decided to push the parade back to the end of the September.

Despite this, the festival still took place at the Garapan Fishing Base and still managed to draw a sizeable crowd.

The festival focused on performances on its opening night. Each country showcased its unique cultural dances.

The Chamorro community, the Chinese community, the Korean community, the Rafaluwasch community, and the Filipino community performed unique cultural dances.

Duenas was actually pleased with the outcome and how many of the groups came out despite the bad weather.

"Despite the rain, majority of the ethnic groups came and they are having fun right now," said Duenas.

The weather definitely did

See FESTIVAL on Page 4

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Senator on pay hike: We are at status quo

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

After three weeks of meetings, the Senate passed the budget for next fiscal year with multiple amendments last Friday, including re-allocating the funding set aside for salary hikes.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the salary hikes did not push through with their version of the fiscal year 2018 budget.

"We are basically at status quo," said Hofschneider. "We elected to use [the money set aside for the pay hike] to distribute among the instrumentalities and senatorial districts of other government agencies."

Hofschneider said the Senate chose last week to re-appropriate the funds due to the ongoing litigation against Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, her voluntary decision not to implement the pay hike, and the submission of certified questions to the Supreme Court on the matter.

According to Hofschneider, about $1.3 million was allocated to the pay hike.

Senate changes included the insertion of a provision that gives Department of Public Works' "solid waste employees" of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota hazardous pay from the Solid Waste Revolving Fund.

Hofschneider said hazardous pay is equal to 25 percent of each employee's base salary.

"These employees are exposed to these environments and at the same time there is a source of funding for it," said Hofschneider, adding that he remains hopeful that the House of Representatives will support the amendments.

The Senate also inserted a provision that eliminates new and vacant positions not filled before March 31, 2018. Only the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College are exempted from this provision.

According to House Bill 20-104 HD2, SD3, funds allotted for the eliminated number of positions for 2018 would be deposited in a subaccount and reserved for deficit reduction, provided that the first $250,000 goes to the Rota Mayor's Office for the positions funded through Rota local funds for fiscal year 2017. Funds for positions not filled under this provision shall not be reprogrammed.

The Senate increased the number of positions for the entire Executive Branch from 50 to 100. Thirty positions are assigned to the Saipan Department of Public Safety and 10 each to Tinian and Rota DPS.

Senate changes also included the approval of the Marianas Visitors Authority budget of over $16 million, with modifications.

From the MVA budget, $450,000 was appropriated for the purchase of a new fire truck for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, up to $250,000 to the purchase of four additional Automated Passport Control units, up to $100,000 to the funding of a CNMI Cultural Center feasibility study, up to $200,000 to the funding of the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures celebration activities throughout September 2018, $250,000 each to the Rota and Tinian mayor's offices to fund for tractors with batwing mower attachments, and $69,435 for the Public School System's Cooperative Education Program for the promotion of its tourism-related programs.

The House is expected to accept or make further amendments in today's emergency session on Capital Hill in the House chamber at 1:30pm. However, if the House insists on certain provisions, it would plunge both chambers into a conference committee.

Once both chambers of the Legislature agree on the budget bill, the bill heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' office for review. According to a constitutional mandate, a 20-day grace period is assigned to the governor for the review of the budget bill.

Failure to enact a budget into law before the end of fiscal year 2017 on Oct. 1, 2017, would cause a government shutdown.

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Over 90 Saipan cops are promoted; 9 now captains

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero has promoted over 90 police personnel on Saipan, including nine police captains from the rank of lieutenant.

Guerrero disclosed Friday that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres supported the promotions with corresponding salary increases.

A few years ago, several police officers were promoted but their salaries were not adjusted due to the lack of a budget.

"About 90 percent got promoted," the commissioner said, adding that those promoted were for the ranks of police officer 2 and as high as captains.

He cited that police sergeants Jason Tarkong, Jeffrey Olopai, and Simon Manacop, who were all promoted last year, were among the nine promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

Promoted to captain were Anthony Macaranas, Bernard Santos, Jerry Ayuyu, Ben Sablan, Joe Saures, Tom Blas, Paul Ogumoro, Joaquin Camacho, and Kevin Aldan.

Assistant chief Aniceto Ogumoro is the chief of police operations.

DPS Saipan currently has 150 police officers.

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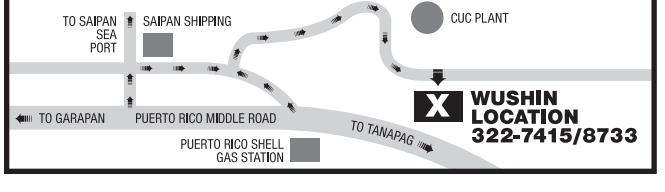

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IRMA

From Page 1

As of 7 a.m. EDT Sunday, the hurricane was centered about 15 miles (25 kilometers) south-southeast of Key West, Florida, and was moving northwest at 8 mph (13 kph). The Key West International Airport measured sustained winds of 50 mph (80 kph) with a gust of up to 70 mph (113 kph), according to the hurricane center.

Tens of thousands of people huddling in shelters watched for updates as the storm swung to the west, now potentially sparing Tampa as well Miami the catastrophic head-on blow forecasters had been warning about for days.

In the Tampa Bay area, access to all of Pinellas County's barrier islands, including the popular spring break destination of Clearwater Beach, was shut off.

The leading edge of the immense storm bent palm trees and spit rain across South Florida, knocking out power to more than 430,000 homes and businesses, as the eye approached Key West.

As the hurricane's eye approached the Florida Keys early Sunday, 60-year-old Carol Walterson Stroud and her family were huddled in a third floor apartment at a senior center in Key West.

"We are good so far," she said in a text message just before 5:30 a.m. "It's blowing hard."

Stroud was with her husband, Tim Stroud, and granddaughter, Sierra Costello. Their dog Rocky was also riding out the storm.

Stroud said she planned to step outside once the eye of the hurricane passed over. She said she has stood in the eye of a hurricane before and it's "total peace and quiet."

Florida Gov. Rick Scott had warned residents in the state's evacuation zones Saturday that "this is your last chance to make a good decision." About 6.4 million people were told to flee.

But because the storm is 350 to 400 miles wide, the entire Florida peninsula was exposed. Forecasters said the greater Miami area of 6 million people could still get life-threatening hurricane winds and storm surge of 4 to 6 feet.

Irma was at one time the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the open Atlantic with a peak wind speed of 185 mph (300 kph) last week. It left more than 20 people dead across the Caribbean and as it moved north over the Gulf of Mexico's bathtub-warm water of nearly 90 degrees, it was expected to regain strength.

Meteorologists predicted Irma would plow into the Tampa Bay area Monday morning. The area has not been struck by a major hurricane since 1921, when its population was about 10,000, National Hurricane Center spokesman Dennis Feltgen said. Now around 3 million people live there.

The latest course also still threatens Naples' mansion- and yacht-lined canals, Sun City Center's retirement homes, and Sanibel Island's shell-filled beaches.

Irma's course change caught many off guard and triggered a major round of last-minute evacuations in the Tampa area. Many businesses had yet to protect windows with plywood or hurricane shutters. Some locals grumbled about the forecast, even though Florida's west coast had long been included in the zone of probability.

"For five days, we were told it was going to be on the east coast, and then 24 hours before it hits, we're now told it's coming up the west coast," said Jeff Beerbohm, a 52-year-old entrepreneur in St. Petersburg. "As usual, the weatherman, I don't know why they're paid."

Nearly the entire Florida coastline remained under hurricane watches and warnings, and the latest projections could shift again, sparing or savaging other parts of the state.

Forecasters warned of storm surge as high as 15 feet (4.5 meters).

"This is going to sneak up on people," said Jamie Rhome, head of the hurricane center's storm surge unit.

The westward shift prompted Pinellas County, home to St. Petersburg, to order 260,000 people to leave, while Georgia scaled back evacuation orders for some coastal residents. Motorists heading inland from the Tampa area were allowed to drive on the shoulders.

At Germain Arena not far from Fort Myers, on Florida's southwestern corner, thousands waited in a snaking line for hours to gain a spot in the hockey venue-turned-shelter.

"We'll never get in," Jamilla Bartley lamented in the parking lot.

The governor activated all 7,000 members of the Florida National Guard, and 30,000 guardsmen from elsewhere were on standby.

In the Orlando area, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios and Sea World all were closing Saturday. The Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Orlando airports shut down.

Given its mammoth size and strength and its course up the peninsula, it could prove one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit Florida, and inflict damage on a scale not seen here in 25 years.

Hurricane Andrew smashed into suburban Miami in 1992 with winds topping 165 mph (265 kph), damaging or blowing apart over 125,000 homes. The damage in Florida totaled $26 billion, and at least 40 people died.

CHCC

From Page 1

nied a motion to dismiss a malpractice lawsuit.

"We vehemently disagree with Judge Camacho's decision. We are taking it up on interlocutory appeal because this is not an appeal on a final decision on the merits of the case," said corporation legal counsel Nancy Gottfried.

"What OAG did was to file a notice of appeal. The court sets a briefing schedule, then briefs come in and hearing date is set. We are hoping that the Supreme Court will give us an expedited review…put it on an accelerated schedule. We'd like them to hear the case and render a decision as soon as practicable," Gottfried added.

Camacho's Aug. 11, 2017, order invalidates certain provisions of the Government Liability Act because it reportedly fails constitutional examination.

In a news briefing Friday, Gottfried enumerated the aspects of the Government Liability Act that Camacho had called into question. "First, that there be no substitution, meaning CHCC is not substituted for the name of the doctor. Two, that there is no cap on damages. Currently there is a $100,000 cap on non-economic damages, $50,00 to $100,000 for the person. Third, no punitive damages. And lastly, right to a jury trial."

Gottfried believes the appeal to the Supreme Court will shed light on the constitutionality of the Government Liability Act in the context of medical malpractice.

The Act was made applicable to CHCC and covers medical malpractice through Public Law 19-78. The Act serves as a cloak used to protect CHCC doctors from incurring personal liability from damages incurred in the practice of their profession.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña said there is no actual medical malpractice insurance for physicians at the hospital.

"The physicians that we have recruited usually ask that question when they come to work in CHCC because they know that they cannot buy medical insurance," she said.

Saipan Tribune news files show that, in a 2008 interview with the late David Lochabay, a former CHCC litigation counsel, he had said that medical malpractice insurance from reputable U.S.-based insurance companies is not readily available in the CNMI because the islands' risk pool is too small.

According to Muña, the reason for the lack of medical malpractice insurance in the CNMI, then as now, still holds true today. "When you calculate what we have, doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners then add the private providers, we only have some 50 and, that is a small number. That is why we don't have enough risk pool for insurance companies to take in."

"So the purpose of the Government Liability Act is to be able to cover for the doctors for indemnification of damages. Knowing that is one of the reasons why doctors come here. Any physician would like to be able to have that. If it's not available by simply purchasing it themselves, then the Government Liability Act was the option and that is the reason why they are here," Muña added.

Even Guam has the same issue, with the Government Claims Act covering the Guam Memorial Hospital, Muña said.

"There was a bill, maybe two years ago, to try to require medical malpractice insurance and this has come up before. When people say medical malpractice insurance is available in Guam, we ask Guam, and they say they don't have it either," she added.

Gottfried said that there are many challenges when operating a hospital on a remote island.

"We are the only hospital on island, geographically remote, [yet] we are held to U.S. mainland standards. We are in conformity with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, but obviously there are challenges to operating a hospital on a remote island in the tropics," she said.

"One of the differences of CHCC and mainland hospitals is that all of our doctors here are employees. They are not independent contractors."

Gottfried said that CHCC will be in pursuit of obtaining medical malpractice insurance, commensurate with the measures that Camacho put into his decision. "We are sending letters to all of the CNMI registered insurance companies, to tell them the parameters of the decision about punitive damages, no cap, a jury trial and no substitution and asking them what conditions they would require in order for us to obtain medical malpractice insurance."

"Those letters are going out very soon and we will give them an opportunity to respond. If they don't respond, we will be following up with them," she added.

Muña said that CHCC will be taking another stab at asking insurance companies. "Markets change and maybe there is really somebody out there who can accommodate us but, again, this will not be our first time to inquire about insurance and it has always been a no. This time, we don't know if we are going to get a yes or no answer."

"This is not unusual. This is not something that we are not doing because we don't want to get it, it's just not available to us," she added.

According to Gottfried, the appeal intends to have the Supreme Court look at the issue as having a compelling state interest.

Compelling state interest is part of the hierarchy of standards that courts use to determine which is weightier, a constitutional right or principle or the government's interest against observance of the principle.

Gottfried said, "If the appeal is successful, then the Government Liability Act will be intact and we would function accordingly under it."

Meanwhile, Muña assures doctors and the community that CHCC always has their best interests in mind and that it stands by its principle that no doctor or patient should worry about healthcare in the CNMI.

"When we hire physicians, we want them to perform to the best of their ability. We want to make sure that they are covered, that is why we are appealing this. We need to protect our physicians and protect our patients."

"Having some kind of protection, especially with the Government Liability Act right now, is something we rely on. We want protection for our doctors and patients. To say that the Government Liability Act is unconstitutional and not valid makes our doctors worry. We are the only hospital here, the only surgery center…. I don't want our physicians to worry," Muña added.

ROTA

From Page 1

Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Division of Fish and Wildlife, among others.

The ceremony began with the posting of colors by the Buck Battalion color guard of the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School and the singing of the U.S. and CNMI national anthems.

Atalig welcomed everyone who came to the ceremony and thanked those who made it possible.

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan said that 9/11 "is a day no one will ever forget. I can't imagine the first responders running in to rescue, risking their lives, while everybody else ran out to save theirs…9/11 changed the world forever."

DFEMS deputy director Dennis Mendiola expressed gratitude to past and present firefighters for their service, while Roger Taisacan, Ports Police assistant chief, thanked the JROTC cadets in advance as they may be future responders someday.

Dancers and singers from the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja did a performance to honor 9/11 victims, while the Rota law enforcers performed a 21-gun salute, blasted sirens, and water hosting in honor of the fallen. The ceremony ended with the Buck Battalion color guard retiring the colors.

Individuals and companies sponsor the posting of the flags. A $10 donation sponsors a flag at the event site, with the donor's names and the recipient's names; a $15 donation gets you an event shirt; and a $20 sponsorship will get you a 3×5 flag that may be claimed on Sept. 18 onwards, or after the retiring of the flags. Proceeds would finance the treatment of local PTSD patients.

Those interested in donating to patients with PTSD may proceed to any Shirley's Coffee Shop branches in Garapan and Susupe or any iShop location at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, and Paseo de Marianas. Those interested in donating on Rota and Tinian may visit their respective mayor's offices for donations.

A ceremony remembering Sept. 11, 2001, would be held at the American Memorial Park and at Tinian's Veterans Memorial Park on Sept. 11

FESTIVAL

From Page 2

not put a strain on the festivities. Although many left the festivities drenched, they were happy to see all the different cultures that worked hard to bring a little piece of their traditions to the festival.

A group of young people came out to see what was going on at the Garapan Fishing Base.

According to Jayson Sablan, he was curious about the tents and the music and decided to drag his friends to check it out.

According to Sablan, he really enjoyed the event. "It was nice to see all the different cultures on the island together in one place," said Sablan.

One of Sablan's friends, Jon, was just as enthusiastic. He said he had never seen anything like it and felt that it was great that the festival incorporated all the cultures on the island.

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Century Travel honors its 100th Rota visitor

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tourist agency Century Travel celebrated a milestone last Friday with its 100th tourist to visit the island of Rota in 2017.

Gao Baoling, a native of Beijing, was recognized as the 100th tourist of Century Travel to set foot on Rota in just two months since Century Travel organized the Rota day tour.

She was joined at the recognition rites by Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

"The idea of awarding our 100th Rota visitor…is a good benchmark for the Century Travel day tour on Rota," said Century Travel business development officer Owen Ji. "We started operating on July 11 and in just two months we had our 100th tourist. It is relevant and we would like to recognize this accomplishment."

Baoling, who is used to the hustle and bustle of city life in Beijing, finds Rota a good respite.

"I love Rota in terms of beautiful views, quietness, and friendly people. I enjoyed our tour on Rota and I hope to come back again," she said.

Tourism on Rota is still a baby compared to Saipan and the scheduled day tours of Century Travel helps promote the island.

"The people of Rota would like to welcome more tourists to enjoy and explore their beautiful island. One of our plans in the future is making our day trips transition to two- to three-day day tours," Ji said.

Rota is known for its beautiful sites—giant latte stones carved out of limestone rock at the As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry, the Sagua'gaga Seabird Sanctuary, Rota's Swimming Hole, the Tonga cave and Rota Cave Museum, its Tweksberry Park, and Mt. Tapingot.

Local food is equally good. Rota is known for its coconut crab and hot spicy beef soup. All recipes date back to the ancient Chamorro style of cooking.

For tour reservations, go to www.centurytraveagency.com or call telephone numbers 235-37-07 to 08.

Gao Baoling from Beijing was recognized as Century Travel's 100th Rota tourist. She is joined in this picture by Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, other tourists and Rota Mayor's Office staff.

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CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION FOR BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DOL/OSHA-212
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 TIME: 9:30 A.M.
"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARMENT OF LABOR, CNMI-OSHA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN,** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-303.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GIL SAN NICOLAS
ACTING SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NOs.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-08
ITB17-JUDICIARY-09
SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017, 10:00 A.M.
ITB17-JUDICIARY-08: "PURCHASE OF A NEW 2016-2017 VEHICLE (5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle) WITH SHIPPING TO TINIAN

ITB17-JUDICIARY-09: "PURCHASE OF A NEW 2016-2017 VEHICLE (5 Door All Wheel Drive Utility Vehicle) WITH SHIPPING TO ROTA

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-14
SUBMISSION DATE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"COLOR LASER MULTIFUNCTIONAL MACHINE (Copy, print, scan, fax, email)"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE- 27
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM
"CHARGEMASTER, BUSINESS OFFICE, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/FACILITY-28
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM
"SOLAR PV SYSTEMS PROJECT, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING
THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 AT 9:00A.M CHST. AT THE MAIN FACILITY OFFICE. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

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THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/FACILITY-26
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM
"LAUNDRY & LINEN SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-22
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 11:00 AM
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 1:00 PM
"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/FACILITY-23
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 11:00AM
BID OPENING DATE: September 11, 2017 TIME: 2:00 PM
"FUEL & LUBRICATION SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-25
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM
"REPAINTING PROJECT, WOMEN, INFANTS, &CHILDREN (WIC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD AT 9:00A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

US, Marshalls meet on Compact funding in 2018

HONOLULU, HI—Representatives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States met last August in Hawaii and jointly approved $28 million that would go to the Marshall Islands under the Compact of Free Association.

The bilateral Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee of the RMI and United States meeting took place on Aug. 29, 2016, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Committee members jointly approved $28 million in the sectors of health, education, environment, and public infrastructure as identified under the Compact of Free Association, as amended, for the benefit of the people of the RMI.

This annual meeting of the JEMFAC serves to promote the effective use of funding under the Compact and provides the opportunity for RMI and U.S. officials to discuss bilateral priorities pertaining to Compact funding and how best to achieve them.

"I am encouraged by the JEMFAC meetings and discussions we held regarding the Marshall Islands," said JEMFAC chairman and acting assistant secretary Nik Pula. "The Marshall Islands continues to make progress on all fronts with respect to Compact funding."

At the annual joint meeting, the committee members:

■ Reaffirmed our mutual commitment to peace, prosperity, and shared democratic values.

■ Recognized the importance of the enduring relationship between our two countries and highlighted areas for continued cooperation to advance our shared goals.

■ Reaffirmed that the goal of funding provided under the Compact, as amended, is for the benefit of the people of the RMI.

■ Recognized the significant progress made by the RMI Government in developing the capacity of its Ministry of Finance and the submittal of the RMI's Fiscal Year 2016 Single Audit in a timely and unmodified manner. Minister Brenson Wase and Secretary Maybelline Bing's (RMI Ministry of Finance) extraordinary efforts in improving the RMI's financial management operations were particularly recognized.

■ Received presentations on RMI efforts: to strengthen the RMI Public School System, support the College of the Marshall Islands, strengthen the RMI's school accreditation processes, improve access to primary healthcare, and implement infrastructure projects to contribute to economic advancement, budgetary self-reliance, and sustainable inclusive development.

■ Resolved to make Compact sector financial assistance available to enable the RMI to undertake a third party review of the RMI's education system

■ Approved funding for community projects on Ebeye within Kwajalein Atoll.

■ Reaffirmed the importance of sustainable and inclusive economic development through improved education standards, access to primary healthcare, and data collection.

■ Recognized the RMI's progress in developing clear, simple, measurable and verifiable performance indicators in health and education.

■ Welcomed Mr. Paul Curry, Principal Operations Coordination Specialist at the Asian Development Bank, who observed the JEMFAC meeting.

The JEMFAC allocated fiscal year 2018 Compact assistance to the following sectors:

■ $11,022,660 Education
■ $6,869,099 Health
■ $2,647,699 Ebeye Special Needs – Education
■ $1,957,635 Ebeye Special Needs – Health
■ $1,484,556 Ebeye Special Needs – Capital
■ $180,766 Environment
■ $2,050,000 Public Sector Infrastructure
■ $240,780 Kwajalein Environmental Impact
■ $2,287,410 Kwajalein Development Fund

Additionally, the JEMFAC allocated "prior-year" unexpended Compact assistance to the following sectors:

■ $500,000 Ebeye Special Needs – Capital (Section 211(b)(1))- Ebeye Sea Wall Project
■ $1,126,250 Ebeye Special Needs (Section 211(b)(1)) – EWSSP Phase 3
■ $462,000 Kwajalein Development Fund (Section 211(b)(2)) – Power Generation Support

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Man, 51, allegedly sexually abused minor on Tinian

Police arrested Thursday morning a 51-year-old man at the San Jose Housing Turnkey on Tinian for allegedly sexually abusing a 16-year-old girl.

Godfrey Sablan Mendiola was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday for bail hearing on charges of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Bail was set at $50,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Sept. 14.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed counsel for Mendiola. Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio is prosecuting.

Police said a woman called the Tinian Department of Public Safety last Aug. 3 and asked for police assistance about a sexual abuse case.

The alleged victim told the Division of Youth Services that Mendiola inappropriately touched her on two separate occasions, first between last April 2 and 8, and the second time last July 23.

The girl confided about what happened to a friend. Police talked to the friend, who corroborated the girl's account.

The girl told her mother about the matter. The mother then called the police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Torres appoints Marciano to MVA board

On Thursday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed Gordon Marciano to serve on the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors.

His appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate. If confirmed, he will serve a four-year term.

"Gordon has been a very active member of our tourism industry, particularly within our Japanese market. Maintaining the historical importance of our Japanese market has been a priority of mine, and Gordon's years of knowledge and experience within that sector will help us sustain that goal further. I am confident in his ability to contribute to the ongoing success of MVA and its outreach to our tourism markets," Torres said.

"I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve our people of Saipan and the Marianas. I thank Gov. Torres for this opportunity, and I look forward to continue supporting our tourism industry in this position," Marciano said. ***(PR)***

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Marianas Eye Institute is very fortunate to have our outstanding optometric physician, Dr. Mark D. Robertson, on staff. From simple eye problems, to the most complex, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Williams are here to help you.

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Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Eating less sodium can help to reduce blood pressure. Current recommendation for sodium for those with high blood pressure (hypertension) is 1500mg per day. If you had two slices of Spam some finadeni or soy sauce over your rice you would have exceeded your daily sodium limit. And that's only from breakfast!!

Most common sources of sodium in the CNMI diet are:

Food	Serving Size	Sodium
Soy sauce	1 Tablespoon	879 mg
Table salt	1 Teaspoon	2300 mg
Hot dog	1 frank	460 mg
Spam, original	3 oz (1/4 can)	1185 mg
Spam, low sodium	3 oz (1/4 can)	870 mg
Corned beef, Ox & Palm	3 oz (1/4 can)	450 mg
Portuguese sausage, Hoffy Brand	3 oz (size of deck) of cards	750 mg

Please, share this message.

The Racial and Ethic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program focuses on increasing the intake of fruits and vegetables and on reducing the intake of sodium through the BIBA Healthy Restaurant Project. When dining out, look for BIBA menu items at participating restaurants: Shirley's Coffee Shop, Caravan of Food, and Everest Kitchen.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Acting Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed construction and operation of the Tinian Ferry Terminal Building project on San Jose, Tinian. The Bridge Investment Group (BIG) is proposing to build on six parcels of land that were leased from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a one-story commercial building with a public restrooms, office space, a shop, restaurant, parking area, and a clock tower.

The public hearing is scheduled for **Monday, October 02, 2017, 5PM in Tinian.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Ferry Terminal Building project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Acting Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

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OAG reviewing sanctions order

The Office of the Attorney General is presently reviewing the sanctions order as to assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub issued by the Superior Court in *Commonwealth v. Murphy*, Criminal Case 16-0160.

In a statement on Friday, it said that Attorney General Edward Manibusan acknowledges that the Commonwealth Constitution, like the U.S. Constitution, assigns certain responsibilities to each branch of government. He adds that these responsibilities serve as checks and balances on the other branches, and create a separation of powers.

"In our criminal justice system, the prosecutor has broad discretion in deciding whom to prosecute," he said.

He explained that the Commonwealth does not often seek dismissal of a criminal case, but when it does the case law is clear that the prosecution is entitled to a presumption of good faith "because we are exercising" our constitutional powers.

"The Office of the Attorney General takes this responsibility very seriously," he said.

The Commonwealth, upon completing its review, will decide whether a review by the Supreme Court is permissible. "I support the prosecutors in my office when they follow the proper procedures and act in the best interest of justice," Manibusan said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

41 awarded Tinian scholarships

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship board awarded 41 scholarships for the fall 2017 semester on Aug. 18, 2017.

The 41 undergraduate students that received the scholarship have met the requirements and the deadlines.

The total amount disbursed was $36,900.

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship is locally funded to support the people of Tinian who want to further their education after high school.

The scholarship will help students purchase books, computers, and other materials that their courses may require.

The board would like to commend the Tinian legislative delegation for their continued support to fund the scholarships. ***(PR)***

REACH effort targets dangers of secondhand smoke

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Racial Ethnic Approach to Community Health has launched a new anti-tobacco campaign, this time making people aware of the dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke.

REACH project assistant Hee Jae Lee said the campaign is specific to reducing exposure to secondhand smoke.

"The REACH tobacco initiative aims to reduce the exposure of secondhand smoke in bars, poker rooms, and hotels through education and enforcement of the Smoke-Free Air Act," she said.

According to the CNMI Non-Communicable Diseases & Risk Factor Hybrid Survey Report 2016, adults 25-34 years old have the highest prevalence of smoking.

About 33 percent of men and 17 percent of women currently smoke. Of those smokers, 65 percent are Carolinian, 34.3 percent are Chamorro, and 56.2 percent are other Pacific Islanders. The report also said that 78 percent of smokers report wanting to quit.

Lee

"We have provided education about the law and about the deadly effects of secondhand smoke to bars, hotels, and poker rooms. We especially encourage bars to ban smoking completely for the sake of their customers and their employees, though many of them are exempt from the law," said Lee.

According to the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008, Commonwealth law generally prohibits smoking (and this includes electronic cigarettes) in government buildings, public places, and places of employment.

The act also prohibits a person who owns, operates, or manages a place of employment from allowing patrons to smoke in the establishment.

"Current law allows standalone bars and semi-open bars to smoke. We assume that the airflow will help with the exposure to carcinogens, but studies have shown that this is false. There are more than 7,000 chemicals that have been identified in secondhand tobacco smoke. At least 250 are known to be harmful and at least 69 of the toxic chemicals in secondhand tobacco smoke cause cancer," she said.

In spite of the law, many employees are still exposed to second-hand smoke.

"Currently, casino employees receive zero protection from the current law," she said.

In an effort to raise awareness about the dangers of secondhand smoke, the REACH grant, which will end in September 2017, will be adopted by the Department of Public Health.

"DPH will continue its efforts in enforcing the law, educating the public about the dangers of secondhand smoke. The campaign is available only on Saipan. But all mass media campaigns will reach Tinian and Rota," said Lee.

"Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer. Your smoking habits are not only harming you but also your loved ones and friends who are around you and inhale your cancer causing cigarette smoke. Please call the quit line at 323-7848," she added.

Talim brings rain but moves away

Tropical Storm Talim brought rain to the CNMI, even as it moved farther away from the Marianas yesterday.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service in Guam yesterday, Tropical Storm Talim continues to move west-northwest with maximum sustained winds of 45 miles per hour. As of 1pm yesterday, Talim's center was 395 miles west-northwest of Guam, 405 miles west-northwest of Rota, 410 miles west-northwest of Tinian, and 415 miles west of Saipan.

Talim is forecast to slowly intensify over the next few days, heading toward Taiwan.

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management cancelled a small craft advisory yesterday after wind gusts decreased below 25 knots.

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog advised the public to continue to be cautious near reef lines as strong rip currents may still occur. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Judge: It's unnecessary to stop OAG from making extrajudicial comments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio denied Wednesday last week Michael Barry Murphy's motion for the court to declare that assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub committed a prosecutorial misconduct for her alleged false, improper, and prejudicial statement in Murphy's case.

Kim-Tenorio also denied Murphy's request for a disciplinary investigation against Weintraub and to stop the Office of the Attorney General from making any extrajudicial comments.

The judge noted that she already dismissed the case against Murphy at the OAG's request last Aug. 15.

Moreover, Tenorio said, she addressed the alleged prosecutorial misconduct last Aug. 29.

She also found unnecessary to issue an order enjoining the OAG and its agents, saying the OAG is aware of professional and ethical standards against extrajudicial comments.

At the Aug. 29 show-cause hearing, Kim-Tenorio sanctioned Weintraub by directing her to donate $500 to a non-profit organization for child victims of sex abuse.

In a written order about the sanction, Kim-Tenorio stated that Weintraub's unprofessional conduct and violations of Model Rules of Professional conduct were not isolated incidents, but occurred continuously throughout litigation in the case against Murphy due to her lack of preparation and diligence.

Kim-Tenorio said the cumulative weight of the prosecutor's conduct and violations had wide reach and affected several government agencies, the public, and, most importantly, the alleged victim and Murphy.

Last Aug 15, Kim-Tenorio granted Weintraub's motion to drop the charges against the 54-year-old Murphy, a retired Army reservist, with the option to re-file the case in the future.

Murphy is currently out on a $50,000 bond in connection with another criminal case. In that case, he is charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, for allegedly sexually abusing a 4-year-old girl on Aug. 6, 2016.

In the second case, the government charged the defendant with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and one count of indecent exposure in the first degree.

The incident allegedly happened between 1994 and 2004 when the victim was a minor. The victim is now 26 years old, according to court documents. This case is still pending in court.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 237-6824 ext. 23/22 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS SERVICES
NMC RFP 17-005

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposal from qualified firms as an "Independent Auditor" to perform a financial and compliance audit for the College.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, August 14, 2017, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., September 15, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-007
MAINTENANCE POWER SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Maintenance Manpower Services for the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, Aug 28th, 2017 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., September 29, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-012
BUILDING REPAIR AND RENOVATION PROJECT

Northern Marianas College (NMC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for Roof Renovation for building D2, at As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, August 28, 2017, between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

A mandatory pre-bid conference and site inspection for interested persons, firms and corporation will be held on Friday, September 08, 2017 at 10:00am at NMC Procurement & Property Management Office, Conference Room on the 2nd floor, Bldg L.

Bid Packages are due no later than 11:00 a.m., September 15, 2017 at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:
/s/Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Management Office

Saipan firefighting crew heads home

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST, Calif.—There are 541 crews currently assigned to wildland fires across the western U.S. traveling to incidents, working long, hot, arduous days and resting a few days before doing it all over again.

One of these crews recently traveled home approximately 8,000 miles after a month of firefighting in California.

In early August, a 15-member Saipan crew from the CNMI arrived in California and was assigned to the July Complex, a series of lightning caused wildfires on the Modoc National Forest.

The crew spent two weeks working on the fireline, then received days off before returning to firefighting on the Six Rivers National Forest.

Through the U.S. Forest Service's Cooperative Fire Program, resources such as the CNMI crew can be ordered to assist with wildfires in the U.S. mainland.

The mission of this program is to work with our Pacific partners to increase capability in the fire community. These partners include the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, American Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Crew members from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the fireline in California. COURTESY PHOTO

This program also sends instructors from the mainland to the islands to provide a variety of wildland fire training courses.

Graduates from the basic wildland fire training are chosen, through a competitive process, to serve on the crew each season.

When the CNMI crew is ordered to the U.S. to assist with wildfires, instructors may have the opportunity to serve on the crew as a senior firefighter or crew boss.

"I've really enjoyed working with this crew," said Victor Espinoza, a crew boss with the Sequoia National Forest. "They are eager to learn and have a very strong family culture, which makes it easier for them to work together as a team. Forest Service employees that are working with the crew are learning as much from the crew, as they are learning from us."

The crew was hosted by the Mendocino National Forest during its stay in the U.S.

Officials thanked the Saipan crew members for their assistance during this long, challenging fire season, and said they forward to their return. ***(www.lakeconews.com)***

Kilili: Domestic violation coalition receives $239,000

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is the recipient of $239,136 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced last week. The coalition asked Sablan during his first term in office for his help to increase funding to assist victims of family violence in the Marianas. And in 2009 the new congressman, as an original co-sponsor of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, included language that gave domestic violence coalitions in the Marianas, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands a full "state" share of funding. Previously, the four territories had to split one state allocation of $240,000.

"The problem of domestic violence in our community has not gone away over the last eight years," Sablan said. "So, this increased funding—one of the first laws I worked on—is just as important as ever."

The Family Violence and Services Act funds help the Marianas coalition and similar organizations around the country coordinate the various services that are available for victims of family violence. These may include rape and domestic violence crisis centers and domestic violence shelters, along with counseling and intervention services.

The coalition also acts as an advocate for an end to violence against women; and each year Sablan joins the group for its march to draw attention to the problem of family violence.

"As the only brother of six sisters, the father of five daughters, and grandfather of a granddaughter, I want to be sure that women are treated with respect in our Marianas community or wherever they choose to live in America," Sablan said. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-027

ROOF REPLACEMENT AT DRUM STORAGE AREA POWER PLANT NO. 1 SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of roofing material at the Drum Storage Berm, Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the removal of corroded roofing and its replacement with new material. Electrical work for installation of lighting and power outlets at the berm is also requested for this task.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-027 Roof Replacement Drum Storage Area Power Plant No. 1 Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 29, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-037

CONSULTANCY SERVICES - REPLACEMENT OF 1 ENGINE SYSTEM - SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Consultancy Services including procurement support, project management, engineering and design services of the Replacement of 1 Engine System (No. 8 –10 to13 MW, capacity) at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Consultant shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of verifiable experience and a track record of designing, modification and installation of diesel fuel or dual fuel power plants, among other attributes noted in the RFP documents.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission CPUC.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal and hence the attendance of the pre-proposal meeting and site visit is mandatory.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-17-037– Consultancy Services - Replacement of 1 Engine System"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 20, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email william.gilmore@cugov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

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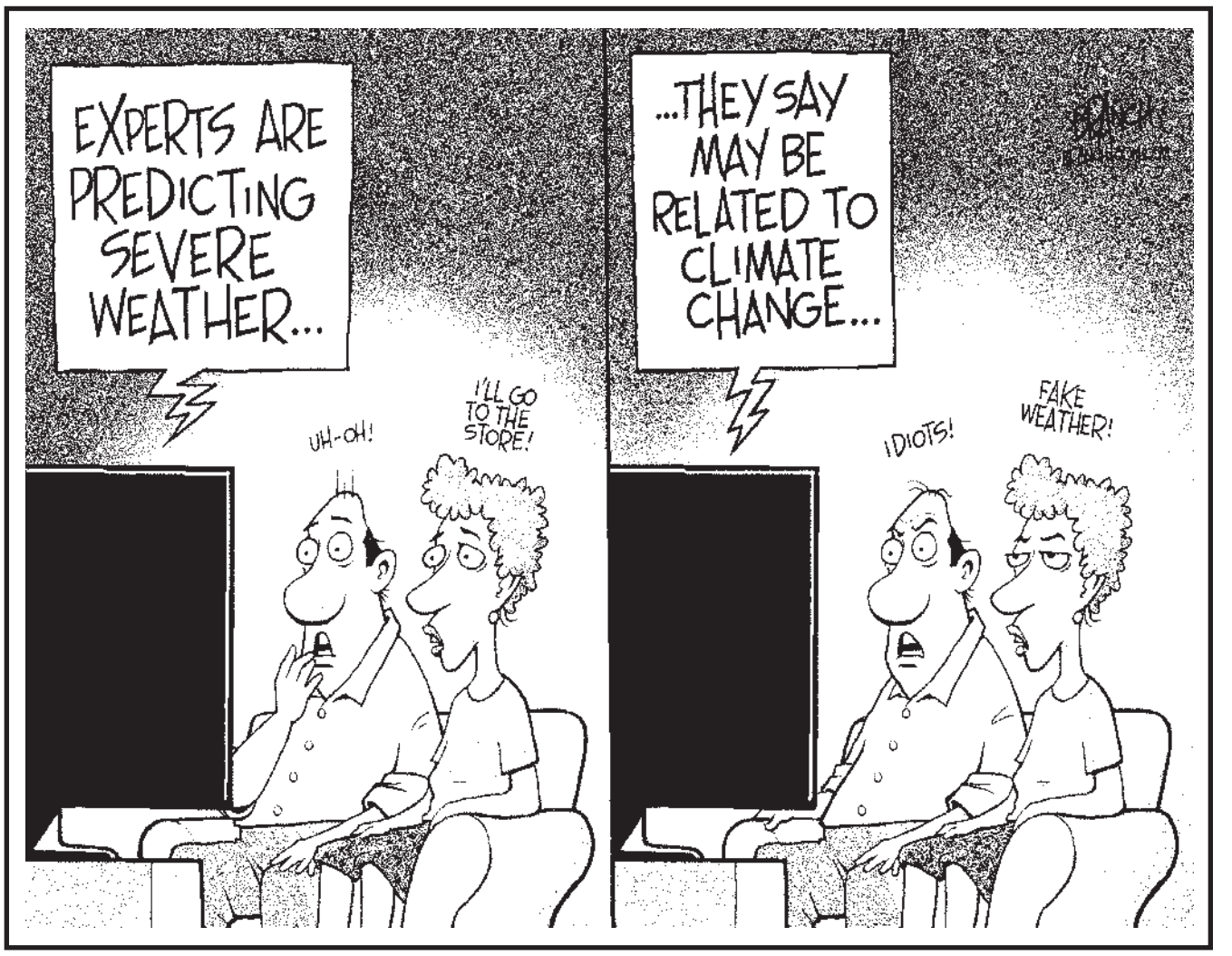

EDITORIAL

North Korea won't be swayed by mere bluster

As recently as July, President Donald Trump blasted his predecessor for drawing a "red line" over the use of chemical weapons in Syria that he failed to back up to Republican's liking. Now, the current president is playing a far more dangerous version of that same strategy with North Korea by threatening all kinds of actions from a "massive military response" to cutting off trade with any country that does business with the regime. Kim Jong Un isn't buying it. His nuclear testing continues. And China and Russia don't appear to be impressed either.

Worse, whatever strategy Trump is pursuing (and "strategy" is likely too generous a word, given the lack of coherence to date) it clearly isn't in concert with U.S. allies in the region including, most alarmingly, South Korea. Indeed, South Korea appears to be on Trump's personal least favored nation list, as he's apparently considering withdrawing from the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, closing the door to our seventh largest export market. Word leaked out about that particular move just about the same time North Korea was bragging about testing a hydrogen bomb.

Does any of this make sense? Even if this has all been done strictly for domestic consumption and playing to key elements of the president's political base who crave hot apocalyptic rhetoric in the morning and maybe a heaping plate of bombastic America First protectionism by afternoon, that seems doubtful. South Korea is an important trade partner for heartland farmers, including cattle ranchers and dairy operators in states like Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa and Indiana, all of which are key elements of the Trump coalition, and attacking South Korea at this crucial moment doesn't help Trump's messaging with North Korea. The strategy appears counterproductive any way you look at it.

Why is President Trump so disinterested in diplomacy and working with U.S. allies? It was South Korean President Moon Jae-In who pushed Russian President Vladimir Putin to cut off crude oil shipments to North Korea on Wednesday during an economic summit in Vladivostok—apparently to no effect. But at least he sought a dialogue. Trump seems to think he's owed help by Chinese President Xi Jinping because they shared some "beautiful" chocolate cake last April. China wants stability on its borders, period, and its president is likely smart enough to realize that his country has too much economic leverage on the U.S. to believe Trump would ever cut off trade and embrace economic recession simply to get diplomatic help with China's problem neighbor.

We've observed before that there are no good answers for North Korea, but we should also have noted there are bad ones. Distancing ourselves from South Korea, substituting bluster and saber-rattling for sound military strategy, and generally being all over the map when it comes to a subject as serious as nuclear proliferation can make a bad situation worse. In the end, Kim Jong Un will simply have exposed the United States as a paper tiger and one that's been fruitlessly chasing its tail to boot. What message does that send to the world's worst dictators and human rights violators? What confidence

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Asia Pivot is in full, disastrous swing under Trump

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS
Special to McClatchy

Markos Kounalakis is a senior fellow at Central European University and visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Contact him at markos@stanford.edu or on Twitter @KounalakisM.

Characterizing himself as "America's first Pacific president," Barack Obama tried to shift America's focus, strategic commitments and resources to Southeast Asia. Hillary Clinton was all for it, too, authoring a 2011 vision for an Asia-focused foreign policy titled "America's Pacific Century."

President Donald Trump—consciously or not—is now suddenly fast-tracking the Obama-Clinton policy goal with his new, crisis version of the "Asia Pivot."

North Korean nuclear blasts and missile testing met by intransigent American rhetoric and military might have suddenly and intensively led to a rapid, if perhaps accidental, Asia Pivot 2.0. This new pivot is made up of more guns and less butter. If the Clinton-Obama policy led with trade, the Trump Pivot leads with tirade.

This quickly evolving Trump pivot is now in full swing, being implemented more by circumstance and reaction than design. A hydrogen bomb can focus the mind and crystallize a new policy. All the world's eyes are watching to see how it plays out as miscalculation, mistake or failure could be catastrophic.

Trump's Asia pivot relies less on reassuring allies than on military buildup and sales. America is increasing new regional military deployments. Hard power is combined with harsh words dominated by Trump's trademark abrasive speech and more confrontational approach towards a rapidly rising China. Asian nations feel the heat and insecurity from the region's increased tensions, shifting power, and threatened trade. In response, they seek greater security and more American weaponry. All this adds up to a rebalance of power.

President Trump has aggressively shined the spotlight on China's culpability for the North Korean regime's survival. Beijing is being called out for long supporting Pyongyang, allowing or perhaps even encouraging it to be an international irritant. Now China must reckon with the sovereign Frankenstein it helped create, having over the years enabled the rogue nation and Kim-clan to now credibly threaten the global peace.

North Korea, however, is not the only regionally destabilizing project pursued by the Chinese. Beijing has used its size and economic strength to remind its neighbors who rules the regional roost. It constructs new militarized islands and challenges those who freely ply international waters it claims. The pivot is meant to counter these moves.

Started by President George W. Bush in 2008, the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade accord Obama later sought to sign was the centerpiece of the Asia pivot, seeing increased regional trade and tightening commercial bonds as a less threatening approach to countering China's growing power. TPP was central to the Bush-Obama pivot. Trump dumped that powerful tool, preferring increased arms sales to added trade deficits.

Trump's TPP retreat was seen widely as an unforced error, signaling a lack of American interest in Asian economic security and an invitation for Chinese regional economic domination. Chinese President Xi Jinping's consolidating leadership and a post-TPP regional opening for China made the neighborhood nervous. Asian countries grew anxious that an economically powerful, militarily growing and unchecked China would set new rules and force conditions favorable to Beijing. Xi's economic infrastructure plan, the "one belt, one road" initiative, was beginning to look to some more like a one noose policy.

That anxiety spread quickly to Japan, which is in the middle of shifting from a previously pacifist posture to one of a more militarized and mobilized nation. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who made an early trip to Trump Tower, is now coordinating in a more robust way with America and its forces to make sure that missiles flying overhead are not hanging over Tokyo's head like the sword of Damocles.

Seoul is currently on ice as Trump asserts he will not be blackmailed over South Korea. In his uniquely tortured and torturing communications, he dressed down new South Korean leaders, calling them appeasers. Trump lets the trade imbalance with the U.S. imply American ennui about Seoul's fate. From a Trump economic nationalist perspective, South Korea is an export-oriented trade parasite. His seeming indifference to South Korea is a cold and callous negotiating calculus applied to tell Kim Jong Un he is calling his bluff. It is an incendiary game of chicken with potentially dire consequences. As Defense Secretary Jim Mattis put it, a North Korean attack would reap a "massive military response."

Trump came into office with an unfamiliar and unpredictable rhetoric that is now translating into a set of unintended foreign policies and strategic directions. Global dynamics have rapidly

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EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shameful behavior

The Koblerville basketball court ribbon cutting ceremony symbolized the commitment of Gov. Torres, Precinct 1 representatives, and our business partners to provide our youths and southern community a safe and functional facility. It was an occasion of celebration to acknowledge and to extend an appreciation to IT&E/IP&E and the E-Land Group for their generosity that made the rehabilitation of the facility possible. The ribbon cutting ceremony was truly an occasion to showcase the fruit of our partners' contribution and to officially make the facility accessible to our youths and members of our community. This is what ribbon cutting ceremony is all about. Such occasion is never about taking credit or about glorification as one representative desperately feels the need to be part of.

What I fail to understand, however, is why would someone who criticized the project would expect and demand to be invited to participate in celebrating the success of the project. As I recall, the representative criticized the $15,000 donation from IT&E/IP&E a day after the companies issued the $15,000 to the contractor. That support went to refurbishing the dilapidated court, installation of a new fiberglass backboard with net, LED lighting system and, among others, the replacement of the old, rusty dilapidated chain link fence that was unsafe for our youths and community. With additional support from the E-Land Group, the dilapidated tin-roof spectator pavilion was completely replaced with a fully concrete structure to sustain strong wind loads during typhoons. This, too, offers safety to the residents as they do not have to worry anymore about flying tins coming from the basketball facility that normally occurs during a typhoon. While it was disheartening to learn of the representative's criticism of the project, Gov. Torres and all those involved remained focus on the rehabilitation of the facility. And now that the project is successfully completed, the representative expected to be invited so that he can be part of the "glorification" that he desperately longs for?

By the way, the representative was at the ceremony. Among those that were called upon to participate in the ribbon cutting were dignitaries that were present. But you will not see him in any of the photos taken at the event simply because he chose not to participate. Instead, he stood afar from everyone, frowning at the celebration of a successful community project. Moreover, all dignitaries present were invited for a photo session immediately after the ceremony. I personally asked a coworker to invite the lawmaker to join the team. He could have humbled himself and joined in on the "glory" that he expected to be a part of. I suppose he finds greater glorification in attacking and criticizing people. That is what he is good for and that is okay. It does not bother me at all because while he gets a hard on off his verbal diarrhea, Gov. Torres, along with the rest of our community leaders, continue moving forward with the "real work" that truly matters. And that is advancing the welfare of our people.

While the representative's character as an attacker is amusing, his angry outrage is appalling and, quite frankly, embarrassing. What is more shameful is his demand to be invited to future events and his angry threat against Gov. Torres. It is unbecoming of an elected official. I was once a staffer of 16 years at the Legislative Branch but never have I seen or heard of an elected official being angry for not being invited nor demanding to be invited. And to threaten a governor so that he can be invited to future functions? How amusing. Honestly, I don't know nor heard of anyone else on this island that becomes belligerent if one is not invited to a function. It is not our island way and, quite frankly, it is beneath our character. That is shameful and demeaning. Besides, I didn't know that being a representative entitles one to being invited. Instead of demanding for an invitation, he should be jumping on opportunities to support programs that benefit our people.

What is not surprising is the representative's common practice of dragging innocent people to advance his political grandstanding. He lashed out at the governor and accused him of politicizing the occasion when, in fact, the governor had no involvement in the coordination, preparation, and in the delivery of invitations. The last time I checked, the only one politicizing everything and anything is the representative himself. And as far as his expectation of the governor's Cabinet and assistants extending him a courtesy call for an invitation? I can only assure the representative that those hardworking men and women are dedicated to advancing the governor's programs, aimed to enhance public service and to improve our people's welfare.

I understand that every elected official has his or her own program. Whatever that may be, whether I agree with it or not, I respect the initiatives and the work put into it. The beauty of democracy is that I get to choose those that are important to me. Gov. Torres and other elected officials are focused on economic upward mobility, meeting current government obligation while retiring past obligations, local workforce development, expanding tourism arrivals, improving existing infrastructures while developing new ones, the list goes on—all focused on making a positive impact on our people's lives. As a citizen, these programs are important to me. While there remain challenges, our elected officials continue the work without a bark and without the need for credit and glorification. The only elected official making a big deal about his "trash program" is the angry representative himself, which by the way, a program that is funded by public funds and not by his personal money. And yes, I am talking to you, Edwin Propst.

The old adage "respect is mutual" is not rhetoric. It is the foundation of our cultural institution that defines us as a people and as a community. It would have been more sensible if the representative had expressed appreciation to the contributing partners that made the rehabilitation of the basketball court possible. They are sincere in their commitment to making the facility safe and operational for our youths and community. $15,000 is a lot of money. The outrage that consumed the representative would have been best diverted to extending gratitude to those that made the project a success and to celebrate the benefit that the newly renovated facility provides our community. It is truly sad that he instead chose to focus on his self-inflicted emotional injury and on self-gratification.

The project is a benefit for Precinct 1 residents whom he represents. Ideally, it should not make any difference to him if he is invited or not. He should praise the project because it is good for our southern community, including those that voted him into office. His live appearance on mass media demonstrates his childish mentality over a project that didn't matter how it became a reality but rather the benefit it provides to the public.

I expect him to respond in his usual behavior because he feeds off of bullying and intimidating those that do not agree with him. I don't have time to go back and forth because I am doing work on X, Y, and Z. The representative may continue to be wrathful if he so desires.

Q: Does the project benefits our community?

A: Yes, it certainly does.

Q: Why then is Rep. Propst very angry?

A: I don't know.

Despite his angry, hateful, and distasteful temperament, a friend I remain.

Glenna SP Reyes
Dandan, Saipan

Who are criminals and who are you

I may be one of the few outspoken activists who tackles the tough issues on the social and economic realities of the CNMI. Well, I am now fighting for the people with a criminal record who can't speak for themselves as the question has come up about "people with a criminal record working in the cannabis industry" because they are eliminated from being fully active participant in all parts of the industry's operations under the present Cannabis Act.

Many people call a person a criminal forever just because they were a criminal at one time in their life—but is that right and fair? Can one really say a person is a criminal for life just because they committed a criminal act at one time or another? The right answer is no because that label and stereotyping is supposed to end once that person has fulfilled their punishment and obligation to society. That is why there are federal laws to ensure these people can be absorbed into society without prejudice!

If it wasn't for this federal law, I would have never been a teacher in Memphis nor here and a member of the CNMI State Board of Education. I'm sure it was an attempt to be "politically correct" to say people like me can't work in the marijuana industry but I am literally a co-author of SB 20-62!

But it is not so much about me as it is the many cultivators who now grow marijuana but have a record. There are also some professionals who use pot with a record who can certainly help in the administrative division or even on the board. It would indeed be poetic justice to give former criminals a chance to do what they had been doing illegally to do it under a legal system, with an opportunity to become legal entrepreneurs. The cannabis industry is only going to grow for some years to come. Give these people a chance as we need them!

To be continued tomorrow.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

NORTH

From Page 10

will our allies have in our resolve and rationality?

"Talking is not the answer," Trump tweeted one week ago. But how would he know? There's been precious little diplomacy going on, at least not in public view. That's not to suggest North Korea's dictator deserves sympathy or respect; he doesn't. There are no more dangerous states or craven dictators around. But since the U.S. has no attractive military options, finding common ground is the only viable approach left. Kim appears driven chiefly by a desire to remain in power, not to launch World War III. Surely, there is a path to de-escalation somewhere out there.

Time and time again, President Trump has demonstrated a penchant for bluster and a disdain for presidential restraint, yet North Korea cries out for more of the latter and less of the former. Is Kim "begging for war," as Nikki Haley claims, or is he begging for a U.S. misstep such as a break with South Korea? Diplomacy may not be Trump's cup of tea, but a steady hand is what the world needs at the wheel right now, not a back and forth of threats that could escalate too easily into something far worse.

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ASIA

From Page 10

evolved his initial and instinctual populist approach into a course of confrontational actions, regional rebalancin, and geopolitical recalculation.

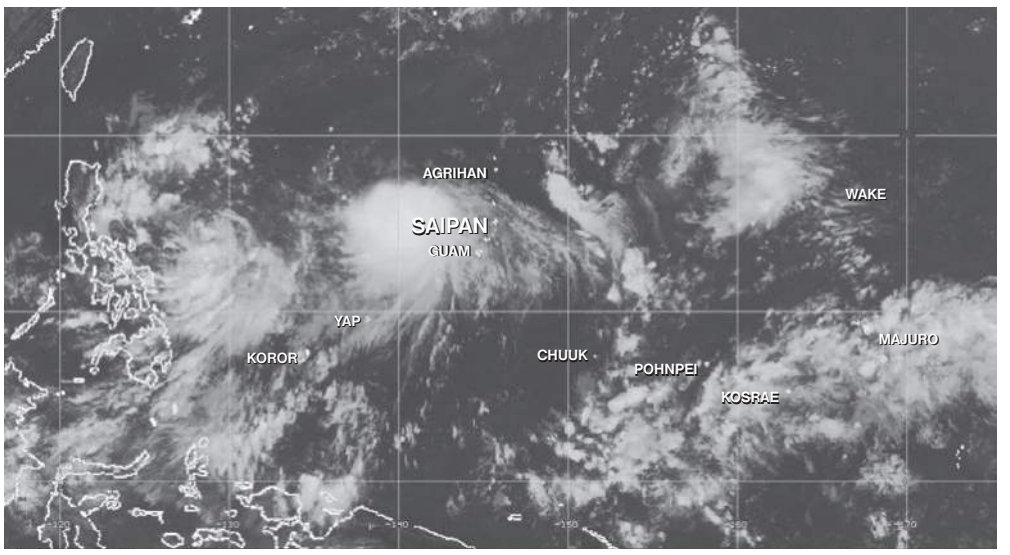
The latest development of this reactive approach is an increased American presence and forward posture that Bush, Obama and Hillary Clinton desired, but failed to implement fully. Trump's comes much faster, furiously and with greater risks than the incremental strategic approach previous administrations sought. A rawer, unapologetic and aggressive Bush-Obama-Clinton Asia pivot is now fully underway. As in basketball, however, a quick, hard pivot always runs the risk of an epic fall.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:15 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical storm Talim will move generally west-northwestward away from the area and strengthen. Conditions across the Marianas should be less rainy then on Friday and Saturday. Based on current radar and satellite trends, have opted to go with scattered showers for Saipan and Tinian this morning, with a band of convection to the northeast. Will keep isolated everywhere else. Added thunder back into the forecast for Monday and Monday night as models are in good agreement on an upper low moving across the region from the west. It is always difficult to exclude thunder with an upper low. Then a broad trough moves over the area around midweek for a renewed shot of showers and thunderstorms.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Rain	64° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	66° / 50°
Miami	Windy	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	77° / 63°
Osaka	Sunny	88° / 68°
Paris	Windy	64° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
Rome	Showers	75° / 64°
Salem	Showers	74° / 59°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	76° / 61°
Seoul	Sunny	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:10 AM	LOW TIDE	0.18
11:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
5:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.73
10:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:20 AM	10:17 PM
Tuesday	-	11:18 AM	11:10 PM
Wednesday	-	12:18 PM	-
Thursday	12:05 AM	1:17 PM	-
Friday	1:02 AM	2:15 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Airman dies in Guam motorcycle accident

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—An active duty airman assigned to the 554th Red Horse Squadron, 36th Wing Contingency Response Group, was killed in a motorcycle accident last Friday. Staff Sgt. David L. Coplin, 35, of Mississippi, is survived by his wife Delora A. Coplin and son, David L. Coplin, Jr.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

"It is the worst kind of tragedy when we lose a member of our Air Force family," said Brig. Gen. Douglas Cox, 36th Wing commander. "Our thoughts and prayers will remain with the families during this process. We ask that the privacy of the families are respected as we grieve. Our top priority is ensuring the welfare of the families and friends affected by this tragedy."

The Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron Engineers are trained to be self-sustaining and build and open bases in the most austere environments. The 554th Red Horse Squadron is the oldest Red Horse squadron in the Air Force. ***(PR)***

Zinke urges expedited release of $223 million in advance payments to USVI

WASHINGTON—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced that Interior will be expediting the rum cover over advance payment of $223,925,000 for estimated fiscal year 2018 collections in the U.S. Virgin Islands. President Donald J. Trump has approved and signed a disaster declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands, which unlocks emergency federal funding for those affected by Hurricane Irma.

» Follows Trump's approval of disaster declaration in the territory

"These funds will be critical to operations in the [the U.S. Virgin Islands] as the governor and emergency teams work to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Irma," said Zinke. "The people of the [the U.S. Virgin Islands] will need all the support they can get."

Adjustments are calculated based upon amounts advanced from rum excise taxes derived from the U.S. Virgin Islands and collected by the federal government under the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 USC 1541). Under current law, any excise tax collected on USVI-manufactured rum imported into the United States is transferred to or "covered-over" to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The U.S. Virgin Islands government submits its advance estimate of rum excise taxes to the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs on an annual basis so that payment can be made in September of each fiscal year.

Certified rum payments covered over to the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2016 totaled $231,498,711. A similar advance payment of $202,725,000 was made to the U.S. Virgin Islands in September of last year for fiscal year 2017. ***(PR)***

Bordallo resolution condemns N. Korea threat against Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo introduced a bipartisan resolution in the House of Representatives last Thursday, condemning North Korea's threats against Guam and reaffirming the United States' absolute and unshakable commitment to Guam's security as well as the Pacific states and territories.

The resolution seeks to protect all citizens in the Pacific region by supporting the evaluation of investments in defensive capabilities in the region, reaffirming the forward deployment of missile defense systems, urging enhanced strategic diplomatic engagement and military cooperation, demanding that the international community fully enforce sanctions against North Korea, and condemning any further escalation that endangers Guam and our citizenry.

The resolution was cosponsored by Reps. Robert Brady (PA-01), Anthony Brown (MD-04), Dwight Evans (PA-01), Ruben Gallego (AZ-07), Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02), Jennifer González-Colón (PR), Colleen Hanabusa (HI-01), Vicky Hartzler (MO-4), James McGovern (MA-02), Stephanie Murphy (FL-07), Donald Norcross (NJ-02), Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01), Amata Radewagen (AS), Gregorio Sablan (MP), Austin Scott (GA-08), Carol Shea-Porter (NH-01), Thomas Suozzi (NY-03), Mike Thompson (CA-05), Juan Vargas (CA-51), Marc Veasey (TX-33) and Robert Wittman (VA-01).

"North Korea has continually shown willful disregard for UN resolutions, international agreements, sanctions, and arms controls in pursuit of its illicit nuclear weapons program. Its threats last month against Guam and our territorial waters in the Pacific were reprehensible and demand firm condemnation. The people of Guam are patriotic Americans who have given much to our nation and the security and prosperity of the region. I remain fully confident in the defensive capabilities on Guam and in the region, but it is vital that we do all that we can to prevent a military conflict with North Korea, and ensure that its regime does not continue down this path of reckless and destabilizing nuclear militarization. I thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution and hope House Leadership will expeditiously bring it to the floor for consideration." ***(PR)***

US, FSM meet on Compact funding in 2018

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The Federated States of Micronesia and the United States closed out August in Hawaii to allocate $61 million to FSM under the Compact of Free Association.

The bilateral Joint Economic Management Committee annual meeting took place on Aug. 30, 2017, in Honolulu. Committee members jointly allocated $61 million for the sectors of health, education, public sector capacity building, private sector development, environment and public sector infrastructure as identified under the Compact of Free Association, as amended, for the benefit of the people of the FSM.

The JEMCO promotes the effective use of funding under the Compact, as amended, and provides the opportunity for FSM and U.S. officials to discuss priorities regarding this funding and how best to achieve them.

"The JEMCO meetings this year were productive," said JEMCO chair and acting assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nik Pula. "I am especially pleased to see the FSM and the Army Corps of Engineers collaborating to strengthen the infrastructure program and project management practices."

The JEMCO members from both the FSM and the U.S. governments:

- Expressed the importance of strong people-to-people ties as the foundation of this special relationship.
- Reaffirmed that the goal of funding provided under the Amended Compact is for the benefit of the people of the FSM.
- Emphasized the importance of medium term fiscal planning in managing annual declines in Compact grant assistance.
- Reiterated the importance of advancing education, to strength the FSM's school accreditation processes, improving access to primary healthcare, and implementing infrastructure projects to contribute to economic advancement, budgetary self-reliance, and sustainable inclusive development.
- Received presentations from FSM state and national government education and health officials on ongoing initiatives within the health and education sectors.
- Recognized ongoing efforts by the FSM to continue to develop a set of clear, simple, measurable indicators for health and education and encouraged the FSM to identify resources to systematically produce, gather, and reliably report upon these indicators.
- Received a presentation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding ongoing collaborative efforts with the FSM in strengthening infrastructure program and project management practices.

The JEMCO allocated Fiscal Year 2018 Compact assistance to the following sectors:

- $ 25,629,189 Education
- $ 22,741,227 Health
- $1,904,232 Public Sector Capacity Building
- $1,788,283 Environment
- $1,247,513 Private Sector Development
- $1,528,408 Enhanced Reporting and Accountability
- $2,600,000 Public Sector Infrastructure

The JEMCO additionally allocated "prior-year" unexpended Compact assistance to the following sectors:

- $ 1,817,735 Education
- $ 1,215,611 Health
- $ 348,298 Public Sector Capacity Building
- $ 629,500 Private Sector Development

JEMCO passed the following resolutions:

- JEMCO 2017-1 Support of Education Personnel Policies
- JEMCO 2017-2 Recurrent, Operational Expenditures within the Private Sector Development, Environment and Public Sector Capacity Building Sectors
- JEMCO 2017-3 FY2018 Compact Grant Allocations
- The JEMCO will reconvene for its mid-year meeting in the spring of 2018.

The JEMCO members are Pula (Department of the Interior), vice chair Lorin Robert (FSM, Secretary of Foreign Affairs), Leo Falcam Jr. (FSM, chief of staff to the President), William Gallo (Health and Human Services), and Philip Roskamp (State Department). ***(PR)***

NEW PRODUCTION

First-time director, Reica Ramirez, right, and stage manager Quincy Chinen review notes during auditions for the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club's upcoming production of *Disney's Mulan Jr.* MCS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors & caregivers support meeting on Sept. 14

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the monthly support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017, starting at 5:30pm, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Philippine e-passports now ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with honorary consul Eli Arago in the CNMI, is now releasing new passports to those who renewed their passport last July 10,11,12 and 13, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1pm is break time). Bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam is holding a mobile outreach on Saipan until today, Sept. 11, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal. For more information, call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Business

Tourism, agriculture businesses brace for Irma's impact

By DAVID KOENIG
AP BUSINESS WRITER

AP
People stand next to palm trees as they look at churning waves and high winds along Hollywood Beach, Fla., on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

After knocking down parts of the vital tourism industry in the Caribbean, Hurricane Irma is spinning toward Florida, another vacation haven.

Tourism accounts for 1.4 million jobs in the Sunshine State, where more than 112 million people visited last year and spent $109 billion. Resorts and hotels there could suffer instant destruction from Irma's winds or lingering damage if vacationers stay away.

"We will still have our beaches after Irma, but some people who were planning to come to Florida will change those plans," said Sean Snaith, an economics professor at the University of Central Florida. "They may postpone, or change destinations."

In the Caribbean, at least 21 people were killed when Irma slammed into the islands as one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes ever. Heavy damage was reported on St. Martin, St. Barts and other famous beach destinations.

Roads and airports will need to be repaired or even rebuilt, and it's uncertain whether that can be done in time for the winter high season on the hardest-hit islands. Wealthier islands with more private insurance will fare better, said Gabriel Torres, an analyst for Moody's Investors Service who has studied the effect of storms in the Caribbean.

"It has an impact on tourism because some hotels will decide not to rebuild or take a long time to rebuild, and that's lost revenue," Torres said. "That can take years to recover."

Torres said St. Martin, which is divided into Dutch Sint Maarten and French Saint-Martin, will benefit as their European patrons provide aid for rebuilding.

If there is any consolation, it may be that "the damage to tourism is going to be less than feared because a great many popular islands have been spared," including Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, said Arthur Frommer, the founder of Frommer's travel guides.

Here is a snapshot of Irma's likely effects on other key industries:

■ **AIRLINES:** More than 4,600 flights in the storm's path have been canceled, including flights this weekend in Florida, and the number is expected to soar, according to tracking service FlightAware.com.

That means more lost revenue for the airlines, which canceled about 11,000 flights when flooding from Hurricane Harvey shut down both main Houston airports for several days.

Harvey landed as a Category 4 hurricane on Aug. 25 near Corpus Christi, Texas. It weakened to a tropical storm but lingered in Southeast Texas for days, dumping torrential rainfall in the Houston area that flooded homes and highways.

United Airlines and Southwest Airlines were hit hardest by Harvey. Savanthi Syth, an airline analyst for Raymond James, said JetBlue Airways, Allegiant Air and Spirit Airlines were most vulnerable to Irma because of their higher concentration of flights that touch Florida and the Caribbean. Among the larger carriers, American Airlines has the most exposure to Irma, Syth said.

■ **AUTOS:** Irma won't damage as many cars and trucks as Harvey did, but the toll is still expected to be extensive, according to analysts from Cox Automotive, which publishes Kelley Blue Book and Autotrader.

Cox said 130,000 to 200,000 vehicles will be lost in Miami, West Palm Beach and Fort Myers-Naples in south Florida. By comparison, 300,000 to 500,000 vehicles were damaged in the Houston area.

In Florida, "People are driving their cars away. Look at I-95 - they're leaving," said Brian Meredith, an insurance analyst with UBS. "Houston was different because people hadn't left."

■ **INSURANCE:** The industry is in good financial shape because insurers haven't had to pay out for mammoth losses like back-to-back hurricanes in over a decade, analysts say. But they are wary of Irma's predicted path, which would mean landfall in the densely populated area from Miami to Fort Lauderdale.

"This is the sort of path that could constitute the elusive 1-in-100 year event" that insurers use to judge catastrophes, Matthew Carletti, an analyst for JMP Securities, wrote in a note to clients.

RMS, a company that advises insurers, estimates Irma could cause wind damage of up to $70 billion in the U.S., almost all of it in Florida.

Meredith, the UBS analyst, said some insurers and re-insurers might need to issue debt or equity to raise more capital after getting hit with Harvey and Irma claims. Homeowner policies could become more costly but not by a great deal, he said, because premium increases require approval from regulators.

■ **AGRICULTURE:** Irma could be a devastating blow to a Florida citrus industry that is already reeling from a decade-long infestation of citrus greening disease, which leads to fewer and bitter-tasting fruit.

If the storm's path takes it through the center of the state—the citrus-growing region—it could rip oranges and grapefruit from their branches or even uproot trees, said Lisa Lochridge, spokeswoman for the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association.

"This has the potential to be devastating," Lochridge said.

■ **OIL AND GAS:** One-third or more of service stations were out of gas in several Florida cities including Miami, West Palm Beach, Fort Myers and Tampa, according to GasBuddy.

Compared with Hurricane Harvey, which knocked out refineries and caused the nationwide average price of gasoline to jump about 30 cents a gallon, Irma is less likely to have such a quick and obvious effect on Americans beyond the storm's path.

Floridians say online retailers let them down ahead of Irma

MIAMI (AP)—Maya Kogul was in California when Hurricane Irma began twirling toward Florida. She knew stores would run out of key supplies before she got back to her downtown Miami home earlier this week, so she placed an order for three cases of water through a Nestle water delivery company. She waited and waited, but the order didn't come.

More than 50 Floridians told The Associated Press that they did not receive flashlights, battery-operated radios, boxed milk, water bottles and first-aid kits after placing orders on Amazon.com and Nestle's ReadyRefresh.

Amazon spokeswoman Amanda Ip said that deliveries were experiencing delays because of the weather conditions. ReadyRefresh posted an apology Friday on Twitter for service disruptions and delivery delays.

"It was frustrating having to run around last minute," said Kogul, a 31-year-old mother of a 2-year-old girl. "By delivery date it was already evacuation time. By the time I realized I wasn't getting the delivery, it was almost Thursday evening. I didn't know they were not going to come."

Several customers said that online retailers let them down at the worst possible moment and even before weather deteriorated. They said on Saturday that they received cancellation notifications only after evacuations had begun in their neighborhoods and markets' shelves had emptied. Some had placed orders as early as Monday.

Others said their packages had arrived in Miami but were either stuck at a sorting facility for a few days or delayed because of problems with couriers.

Many of the customers who spoke to the AP said Amazon had directed them to UPS for complaints. The courier said in a statement that their facilities suspended operations as officials rolled out announcements of evacuations, delaying orders that were out for delivery on Thursday and Friday. UPS spokeswoman Jennifer Cook said the company is offering to waive any fees to send their packages to another address that is not under evacuation order.

Mar Enriquez, 41, placed an order on Amazon for what seemed to him like an innovative bag that expands when it comes in contact with water to use as a barrier, like a sandbag. He had heard it worked for friends who braved Hurricane Harvey in Houston, so he bought it on Monday using his Prime membership that offers speedier deliveries. Enriquez was set to leave for New York City on Friday after his suburb was evacuated because of the risk of storm surge.

"On Thursday, they told me everything was fine," he said. But his package got stuck at a sorting facility in the Miami suburb of Doral, probably because couriers were swamped with orders and not able to deliver them all. "You put your confidence on this. You pay for the extra Prime membership, but they failed us in the worst and most-needed moment."

The office of Florida's attorney general was not able to identify whether package delays were widespread. The office said it has received more than 8,000 complaints about alleged price gouging ahead of the storm.

Loyal Amazon customers say they understand the large volume of orders placed this week may have made deliveries impossible, especially as millions were told to evacuate their neighborhood and likely abandon work commitments.

But Christine Huyn, a 38-year-old fitness instructor, said the companies should have been upfront. She ordered a portable air conditioner from Amazon for a room where she will be hunkering with her two children.

"I lost my chance because they guaranteed it would be here. They gave us a false sense of security," she said.

What she remembers the most from Hurricane Andrew in 1992 as a child is how hot it was, and the fact her family had no electricity for weeks.

"I really was crying when they told me it wouldn't be here, because I was thinking of my kids," she said. "The heat is going to be horrendous."

Nation

‘I’m scared to death’ says Key West woman riding out storm

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Hurricane Irma closed in on the Florida Keys with top winds of 120 mph (190 kph) early Sunday as forecasters monitored a crucial shift in its trajectory—just a few more miles to the west—that could keep its ferocious eye off the southwest Florida coast and over warm gulf water.

Tens of thousands of people huddling in shelters watched for updates as the storm swung to the west, now potentially sparing Tampa as well Miami the catastrophic head-on blow forecasters had been warning about for days.

But those few miles meant St. Petersburg could get a direct hit, rather than its more populous twin across Tampa Bay. Neither city has suffered a major hurricane in nearly a century.

The leading edge of the immense storm bent palm trees and spit rain across South Florida, knocking out power to more than 170,000 homes and businesses, as the eye approached Key West.

“Tonight, I’m sweating. Tonight I’m scared to death,” said 60-year-old Carol Walterson Stroud, who sought refuge in a senior center in Florida’s southernmost city with her husband, granddaughter and dog. The streets emptied and shops were boarded up before the wind started to howl.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott had warned residents in the state’s evacuation zones Saturday that “this is your last chance to make a good decision.” About 6.4 million people were told to flee.

But because the storm is 350 to 400 miles wide, the entire Florida peninsula was exposed. Forecasters said the greater Miami area of 6 million people could still get life-threatening hurricane winds and storm surge of 4 to 6 feet.

Irma—at one time the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the open Atlantic—left more than 20 people dead across the Caribbean as it steamed toward the U.S. Its winds dropped to Category 3, down considerably from their peak of 185 mph (300 kph) earlier in the week. But as it moved north over the Gulf of Mexico’s bathtub-warm water of nearly 90 degrees, it was expected to regain strength.

AP
Waves crash against the Southernmost Point in Key West, Fla., Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

Meteorologists predicted Irma would plow into the Tampa Bay area Monday morning. The area has not been struck by a major hurricane since 1921, when its population was about 10,000, National Hurricane Center spokesman Dennis Feltgen said. Now around 3 million people live there.

The latest course also still threatens Naples’ mansion- and yacht-lined canals, Sun City Center’s retirement homes, and Sanibel Island’s shell-filled beaches.

Irma’s course change caught many off guard and triggered a major round of last-minute evacuations in the Tampa area. Many businesses had yet to protect windows with plywood or hurricane shutters. Some locals grumbled about the forecast, even though Florida’s west coast had long been included in the zone of probability.

“For five days, we were told it was going to be on the east coast, and then 24 hours before it hits, we’re now told it’s coming up the west coast,” said Jeff Beerbohm, a 52-year-old entrepreneur in St. Petersburg. “As usual, the weatherman, I don’t know why they’re paid.”

Nearly the entire Florida coastline remained under hurricane watches and warnings, and the latest projections could shift again, sparing or savaging other parts of the state.

They’ve been warned: Some insist on riding out Irma at home

REDINGTON SHORES, Fla. (AP)—Carl Roberts has Chinese food, a case of water and a million-dollar view in his 17th floor Gulf front condo—all he needs, he says, to weather the massive storm coming straight at him.

Authorities have beseeched more than 6 million people in Florida and Georgia to evacuate before Hurricane Irma’s storm surge and fierce winds make it impossible to flee or be rescued. Many are staying nevertheless, even boasting about surviving Camille, Andrew, Katrina and other storms.

“No. 1, I don’t have anywhere to go,” said Roberts, an attorney. “And I’m on the 17th floor. I have security shutters, so I should be quite safe here.”

Mandatory evacuation orders apply to all barrier islands around South Florida, including Redington Shores, where Roberts’ condo complex towers over a narrow reach of sand. The entire Florida Keys were supposed to be emptied. Firefighters went door to door in mobile home parks, urging residents to get out.

People who refused to evacuate were not being arrested, but were told they wouldn’t be rescued once the storm arrives.

“You can call, but we’re not coming,” Pinellas Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said.

Carol Walterson Stroud figured Irma would turn elsewhere at first. Then, she didn’t evacuate Key West because she’s a nervous wreck driving alone, and her husband—”a hard-headed conch”—wouldn’t leave.

So as Irma’s winds and rain began to lash Florida’s southernmost city, she hunkered in a borrowed apartment in the senior center where her husband Tim works, along with their granddaughter Sierra Costello, and dog Rocky. Her daughter, Breanna Vaughn, refused to leave her animals in her home a few blocks away.

“I’m afraid,” Stroud acknowledged. “Tonight, I’m sweating. Tonight, I’m scared to death.”

Many poor people had few options. People with more resources didn’t want to stay in crowded sheltrs, or risk driving hundreds of miles north.

“If you drive to Atlanta or Tallahassee, you’re risking running out of gas and being in your car in a Category 4 hurricane,” said Michel Polette, who lives in Miami Beach.

Mobile home parks were subject to mandatory evacuation orders, be they inland or near water, but even there, people stayed put.

“I’m not going anywhere,” said Laurie Mastropaolo, 56, at the Treasure Village Mobile Home Park in St. Petersburg. Her T-shirt, with a photo of “Grumpy Cat,” said, “This is my happy face.”

Storm surge warnings: Life-threatening, will cover a house

MIAMI (AP)—The storm surge is called dangerous and life-threatening, but what exactly is it?

It’s not a wall of water or a tsunami. Simply put, hurricane winds push water toward shore. It can happen quickly and far from a storm’s center, inundating areas that don’t typically flood.

Storm surge doesn’t just come from the ocean. It can come from sounds, bays and lakes, sometimes well inland.

Large hurricanes tend to create greater storm surge over a broader area, and coastal features such as bays can act like funnels and back water up into rivers and canals, said Jamie Rhome, head of the U.S. National Hurricane Center’s storm surge unit.

“This is going to sneak up on people,” Rhome said.

Forecasters say it kills more people than the strong winds. Florida Gov. Rick Scott said it “will cover your house.”

The National Hurricane Center forecasts water levels up to 15 feet (4 meters) above ground for the Florida Keys island chain and parts of the state’s Gulf coast, along with up to 25 inches (63 centimeters) of rain in the Keys.

The flooding threat extended far beyond the path of Irma’s eye. The Atlantic coast from Miami to Isle of Palms, South Carolina, could see up to 6 feet (2 meters) of storm surge.

WHAT’S AT RISK?

About 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) of coastline from Tampa Bay to the mid-South Carolina coast could see storm surge. Much of that landscape lies less than 10 feet (3 meters) above sea level, and the surge from Irma could be a few inches higher in some areas.

Much of Florida’s southwest coast is uninhabited swampland, including a large section of Everglades National Park.

“The Everglades won’t stop the potential flooding to inhabited areas,” Rhome said.

North of the Everglades lies Naples, an upscale town of about 22,000 that is also the home of the Florida governor.

The hurricane center’s storm surge maps, showing deep inundation for Naples, worried Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach.

“Look at Naples, the entire town of Naples is underwater,” Klotzbach said. “That is horrible. God that looks awful.”

Farther north is the Tampa Bay region, with about 3 million people, a Busch Gardens theme park and baseball spring training grounds for the Philadelphia Phillies and Toronto Blue Jays.

DEADLY WATERS

Storm surge has accounted for half the U.S. deaths from hurricanes, tropical storms and cyclones over the last half-century, according to a hurricane center study.

The surge helped destroy nearly half the structures along a 40-mile (64 kilometer) stretch of the Florida Keys during the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane, which killed over 400 people, including World War I veterans working on a railway project.

Storm surge flooding up to 28 feet (8 meters) above normal tide levels were associated with Hurricane Katrina in 2005, directly or indirectly causing at least 1,500 deaths, according to the hurricane center.

Even tropical storms can cause major coastal flooding. Hurricane Sandy lost its tropical characteristics before making landfall in 2012, but its enormous size drove catastrophic storm surge onto the New Jersey and New York coastlines.

COASTAL VIEW

A quarter of Florida’s population, 6.4 million people, were warned to evacuate low-lying areas.

In Miami, Patricia Magalhaes and her family decided to stay in their high-rise in the waterfront Brickell neighborhood because electricity is typically restored quickly after storms.

“Even if the streets do flood, I have enough supplies for a week without leaving my apartment,” she said.

She learned about storm surge’s power while living in New York City during Sandy. She was surprised to see cars floating in the streets, and friends living downtown lacked power for weeks.

“I think Miami is more prepared than New York for something like that. I feel safer. We have a plan,” Magalhaes said.

Asia

Rohingya rebels declare truce as desperation hits camps

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—Rohingya insurgents, whose attack on Myanmar security forces last month triggered savage military reprisals, declared a monthlong truce Sunday as refugees continued to flood across the border into Bangladesh only to face scant basic resources, hunger and illness.

The Muslim insurgents of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army issued the truce statement on its Twitter account and urged Myanmar's government to reciprocate in order to assist all victims regardless of their background.

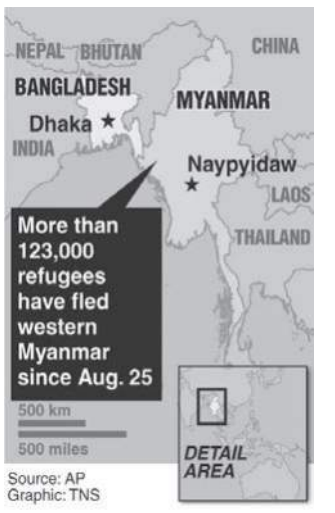
The government did not comment immediately.

The rebels, who say they're fighting to protect their minority members against government-sponsored persecution, launched their first known attacks last October and again on Aug. 25. According to Rohingya refugees, the military responded with indiscriminate killings, burning entire villages and forcing tens of thousands to flee. The government said most of the 400 dead were "terrorists."

The U.N. said Saturday that an estimated 290,000 Rohingya Muslims have arrived in the border district of Cox's Bazar in just the last two weeks, joining at least 100,000 who were already there after fleeing earlier riots or persecution in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. The number was expected to swell further, with thousands crossing the border each day.

AP

An elderly Rohingya Muslim, who recently crossed over from Myanmar into Bangladesh, arrives at a food distribution center in Kutupalong, Bangladesh, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.



Fights were erupting over food and water. Women and children were tapping on car windows or tugging at the clothes of passing reporters while rubbing their bellies and begging for food. Health experts warned of the potential for outbreaks of disease.

"More and more people are coming," said UNHCR spokeswoman Vivian Tan. With camps already "more than full," the new arrivals were setting up spontaneous settlements along roadsides or on any available patches of land.

Within the camps "we are trying our best, but it is very difficult because every day we are seeing new arrivals" with nowhere to go, Tan said.

Many of the newly arrived were initially stunned and traumatized after fleeing the violence. They are now growing desperate in searching for food distribution points that appeared only in recent days, passing out packets of biscuits and 25-kilogram (55-pound) bags of rice.

One aid worker who asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media said "stocks are running out" with the refugees' needs far greater than what they had imagined. "It is impossible to keep up," she said.

At one food distribution point, women were volunteering to help keep order by tapping people with bamboo sticks to gently urge them back in line. Weary women carried infants in their arms while clutching other children to their sides, afraid they might be separated in the crowds.

One 40-year-old man, faint with hunger, collapsed while waiting and could not stand again on his own strength when others tried to help him up. They drizzled water between his lips in an attempt to revive him, to no avail.

At one camp, a mobile clinic set up for the first time Saturday had already seen 600 patients by the afternoon. Patients, mostly children, were coming in with severe diarrhea, fungal skin infections, ear infections and high fever, said Nasima Yasmin, the director of the clinic run by a well-known Bangladesh health group.

Yasmin said their work was barely sufficient given the camp's scale and requirements.

"We need deep tube wells so that there is clean water and people can clean themselves. Also toilets are needed," she said, adding that the sheer number of newcomers raised fears of a serious outbreak of disease.

Refugee camps had already been filled to capacity before the influx. Makeshift settlements were quickly appearing and expanding along roadsides, and the city of Cox's Bazar — built to accommodate only 500,000 — was bursting at its seams.

There was an urgent need for more temporary shelters, Tan said. "We are seeing the mushrooming of these very flimsy shelters that will not be able to house people for too long," she said.

The U.N. has asked Bangladesh authorities to make more land available so they can build new relief camps.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement Saturday that it was "very concerned" about the situation and praised Bangladesh for its "generosity in responding to this humanitarian crisis."

Nauseating trash heaps in India spark citizen cleanup drives

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Lawyer Afroz Shah moved to Mumbai with a dream of looking out at the wild, blue Arabian Sea. What he saw instead was nauseating—waves churning with plastic shopping bags and empty chip packets, beaches covered so thick with soda bottles and snack wrappers he could no longer see the sand.

The coast off India's financial capital, like so many other places across the South Asian nation, has become choked by garbage tossed without much thought by the millions of people who live there.

"I could have gone to the court. I could have complained" to municipal authorities, said Shah, 34. Instead, he decided to take action with his own two hands.

He and a neighbor near Mumbai's Versova Beach pulled on glove and face masks and began picking rubbish out of the sand. Gradually, they were joined by other volunteers and sometimes tourists. Over 98 weekends they gathered more than 5 million kilograms (11 million pounds) of trash.

"This littering is done by us," Shah says of his fellow Indian citizens. "I should pick it up."

One environmental activist calls India's garbage problem a "ticking time bomb" that will ultimately bury the nation's cities and towns unless its 1.3 billion people stop littering at will. The country is "drowning in trash," says Chitra Mukherjee of the New Delhi-based Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group.

Each day, every Indian generates about 200 to 600 grams (7 ounces to 1.3 pounds) of garbage, the government estimates. The vast majority of that ends up tossed into the country's forests, parks, streets and sidewalks, rivers or surrounding oceans.

"The citizen has to realize that 'this is my waste, nobody is going to take care of it but me,'" says Mukherjee.

In 2014, the government tried to raise awareness with a campaign called "Swacch Bharath Abhiyan," or "Clean India Mission." Prime Minister Narendra Modi even hammed it up for media photographers by posing with a broom.

But three years later, little has changed. People still carry their household trash in plastic bags to the edge of the water and toss it out to sea, watching as it bobs away.

The slow progress means Shah and others continue leading small citizens' movements to help. But not every effort has been successful.

A group called New Delhi Rising says it's been unable to find enough volunteers to handle the 15,500 tons of waste generated every day in the Indian capital.

New Delhi's three landfills are already overflowing, says the group's founder, Nakul, who like many in India goes by only one name.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan: 12 picnickers drown at Karachi beach

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say at least 12 people, including women and children, have drowned at a beach near the port city of Karachi after being swept away by strong waves in the Arabian sea. Police official Ijaz Khokhar says initially two people drowned Saturday after enjoying a picnic at the beach and the others died trying to rescue them. He said rescuers have transported the bodies of the 12 "ill-fated picnickers" to a Karachi hospital. Mohammad Tahir Iqbal, an official at Pakistan's largest private Edhi ambulance service, said at least seven of the dead belonged to the same family. Such incidents have occurred before at Karachi's beaches where people often disregard warnings from authorities. Karachi is the capital of Pakistan's southern Sind province. North Koreans celebrate holiday with familiar routines

North Koreans celebrate holiday with familiar routines

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Koreans are celebrating another public holiday with familiar routines, laying flowers and bowing in front of statues and portraits of past leaders while the outside world keeps a close watch amid speculations that another missile test is near. South Korea's government said North Korea could potentially mark the 69th founding anniversary on Saturday with its third test of a developmental intercontinental ballistic missile. But no weapons test has been detected in North Korea so far as people in capital Pyongyang went through customary practices of showing loyalty to late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. This year's anniversary comes just after North Korea conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test to date last weekend. It also conducted two ICBM tests in July.

Wife: Taiwan activist may be forced to plead guilty in China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The wife of a Taiwanese activist China accused of subversion said her husband may be pressured into pleading guilty when his trial opens Monday, but she remains hopeful that he can return home safely. Lee Ching-yu told reporters at a briefing Saturday she plans to travel this weekend to attend Lee Ming-che's trial in the central city of Yueyang. Supporters sitting beside her held up signs calling on China to release the activist. "At this moment, I want to ask my fellow countrymen for their understanding if they see Lee Ming-che do or say anything unbearable in court outside of his free will," Lee said. "This is just the Chinese government being adept at the performance" of having someone confess, she added. Lee Ming-che is accused of subversion of state power, a vaguely defined charge often used by authorities to muzzle dissent and imprison critics. China's wide-ranging crackdown on civil society has featured a string of televised "confessions"—believed to have been made under coercion—by human rights activists accused of plots to overthrow the political system. Calls to the court and the activist's lawyer rang unanswered Saturday.

World

Recovery efforts pick up in earthquake-damaged Mexican town

JUCHITAN, Mexico (AP)— Relief supplies and cleanup crews began arriving in earnest in this city in southern Mexico, two days after a devastating earthquake killed 37 here— more than half the nationwide total.

Government cargo planes delivered much-needed supplies and the military began distributing boxes of food, though many residents of this city in a region of Oaxaca state known as the Isthmus complained that progress was slow and they hadn't yet received assistance.

Teams of soldiers and federal police armed with shovels and sledgehammers fanned out across neighborhoods to assist in demolition of damaged buildings. Dump trucks choked some narrow streets as they began hauling away the many tons of rubble.

Maria de Lourdes Quintana Lopez said she couldn't wait for the government's assistance as she oversaw the demolition of her family candy business' warehouse.

"We have to work so that we're not overcome with sadness," Quintana said. "We're not going to wait for the government to do what it has to do."

Work by residents to clear the streets and lots that held their collapsed homes Saturday was slowed by aftershocks throughout the day. The 8.1 magnitude earthquake claimed 65 lives in Mexico, but nowhere more than Juchitan.

There were so many deaths that slow-moving funeral processions caused temporary gridlock at intersections as they converged on the city's cemeteries from all directions.

Scenes of mourning were repeated over and over again in Juchitan, where a third of the city's homes collapsed or were uninhabitable, President Enrique Pena Nieto said late Friday. Part of the city hall collapsed.

On the outskirts of the city, the general hospital continued to settle into its temporary home—a school gymnasium with gurneys parked atop the basketball court. The earthquake rendered the hospital uninhabitable, so the gym contained a mix of patients that pre-dated the quake and those who suffered injuries as a result of it.

Maria Teresa Sales Alvarez said it was "chaos" when the earthquake struck the single-story hospital, but staff moved patients outside and transferred most of those who required specialized care to other facilities.

Selma Santiago Jimenez waved flies away from her husband and mopped his brow while he awaited transfer for surgery. He suffered injuries in a motorcycle accident before the earthquake. Windows broke and doors fell in the hospital, but staff quickly helped get her husband out, she said.

In addition to the deaths in Juchitan, the quake killed nine other people in Oaxaca and 19 in neighboring states. Two others died in a mudslide in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz after Hurricane Katia hit late Friday.

Pena Nieto said authorities were working to re-establish supplies of water and food and provide medical attention to those who need it. He vowed the government would help rebuild.

At the local fairgrounds in Juchitan, about two-dozen residents of a central neighborhood gathered at the gates to what the military was using as a staging ground.

They came to complain that aid packages that the military started distributing Saturday had not arrived to many families. An army captain pleaded for patience, but ultimately agreed to take two pickups full of packages and water to their neighborhood.

It wasn't enough to satisfy all the residents who mobbed the trucks, but the captain promised they would continue canvassing the city street by street.

AP

A woman tries to calm an angry man during a dispute over how soldiers should allocate rations, in a zone heavily affected by Thursday's magnitude 8.1 earthquake, in Juchitan, Oaxaca state, Mexico, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

Syrian army in race with US-armed fighters for eastern Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—U.S.-backed Syrian fighters launched an offensive against the Islamic State group in eastern Syria along the border with Iraq on Saturday, bringing them into a race with government forces marching in the same direction against the extremists in their last major holdout in the war-torn country.

The dueling battles for Deir el-Zour highlight the importance of the oil-rich eastern province, which has become the latest focus of the international war against the Islamic State group, raising concerns of an eventual clash between the two sides.

The U.S.-trained Deir el-Zour Military Council said it was calling its operation Jazeera Storm, after the familiar name for northeast Syria. The Military Council is a part of the predominantly-Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, which enjoys broad U.S. military support. The SDF are the U.S.'s primary ally in the fight against IS in Syria.

The race to reach the Iraqi border will shape future regional dynamics, determining whether the United States or Russia and Iran will have more influence in the strategic area once the extremist group is defeated.

Iran has been one of President Bashar Assad's strongest backers since the crisis began in March 2011 and has sent thousands of Iranian-backed fighters and advisers to fight against insurgent groups trying to remove him from power.

The U.S.-backed fighters are up against a huge challenge to reach Deir el-Zour, especially while they are still fighting to liberate Raqqa from IS. Three months into the battle, they have liberated around 60 percent of the city, and much more difficult urban fighting still lies ahead.

This week, Syrian troops and their Iranian-backed allies reached Deir el-Zour, breaking a nearly three-year-old IS siege on government-held parts of the city in a major breakthrough in their offensive against IS. In a victory statement, the Syrian military said Deir el-Zour will be used as a launching pad to liberate the remaining IS-held areas along the border with Iraq.

Pro-government forces broke the siege of the city's airport on Saturday, state media reported.

The troops' arrival to Deir el-Zour city brings Syrian forces and their allies a step closer to controlling the oil-rich eastern province and its capital bordering Iraq, a major boost for Tehran's growing influence in the area. The region has some of Syria's largest oil fields, whose revenue is vital to the state's dried coffers.

Syria's military command announced Saturday they had captured the province's Taym oil field from IS militants on Saturday.

Cuba surveys toppled houses, flooded cities in wake of Irma

CAIBARIEN, Cuba (AP)— Hurricane Irma ripped roofs off houses and flooded hundreds of miles of coastline as it raked Cuba's northern coast after devastating islands the length of the Caribbean in a trail of destruction that has left 22 people dead so far.

As Irma left Cuba late Saturday and directed its 120 mph (195 kph) winds toward Florida, authorities on the island were assessing the damage and warning of staggering damage to keys off the northern coast studded with all-inclusive resorts and cities, as well as farmland in central Cuba.

There were no immediate reports of deaths in Cuba—a country that prides itself on its disaster preparedness—but authorities were trying to restore power, clear roads and warning that people should stay off the streets of Havana because flooding could continue into Monday.

Residents of "the capital should know that the flooding is going to last more than 36 hours, in other words, it is going to persist," Civil Defense Col. Luis Angel Macareno said late Saturday, adding that the waters had reach at about 2,000 feet (600 meters) into Havana.

As Irma rolled in, Cuban soldiers went through coastal towns to force residents to evacuate, taking people to shelters at government buildings and schools - and even caves.

Video images from northern and eastern Cuba showed uprooted utility poles and signs, many downed trees and extensive damage to roofs. Witnesses said a provincial museum near the eye of the storm was in ruins. And authorities in the city of Santa Clara said 39 buildings collapsed.

More than 5,000 tourists were evacuated from the keys off Cuba's north-central coast, where the government has built dozens of resorts in recent years.

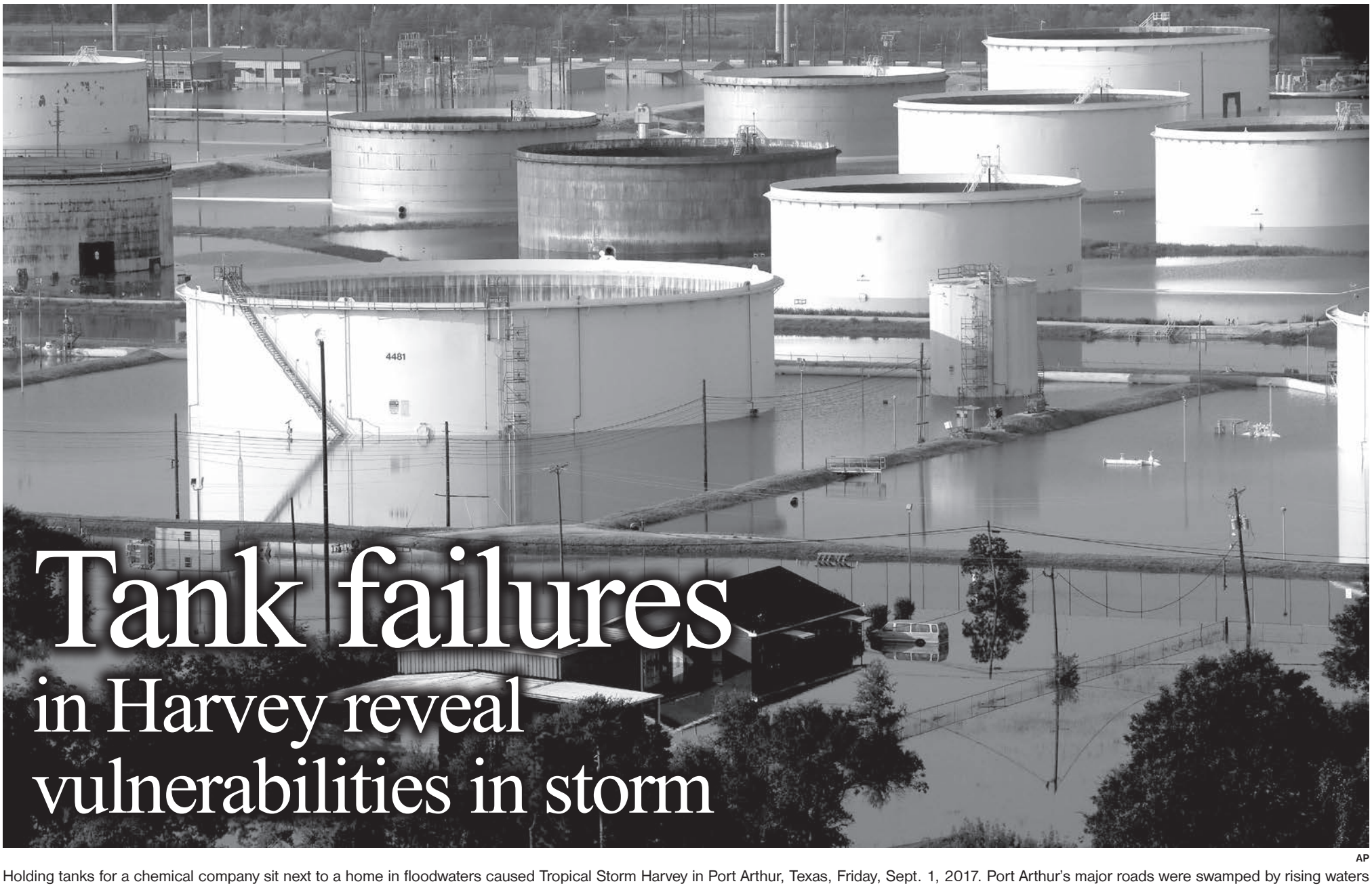
Civil Defense official Gregorio Torres said authorities were trying to tally the extent of the damage in eastern Cuba, home to hundreds of rural communities and farmland.

In Caibarien, a small coastal city about 200 miles (320 kilometers) east of Havana, winds downed power lines and a three-block area was under water. Many residents had stayed put, hoping to ride out the storm.

Before slamming into Cuba, Irma had caused havoc in the Caribbean, where it ravaged such lush resort islands as St. Martin, St. Barts, St. Thomas, Barbuda and Anguilla.

Many of Irma's victims fled their battered islands on ferries and fishing boats for fear Hurricane Jose would destroy or drench anything Irma left untouched, but Jose veered away before doing much more damage.

Focus



AP

Holding tanks for a chemical company sit next to a home in floodwaters caused Tropical Storm Harvey in Port Arthur, Texas, Friday, Sept. 1, 2017. Port Arthur's major roads were swamped by rising waters brought by Harvey.

Tank failures in Harvey reveal vulnerabilities in storm

By MATTHEW BROWN and LARRY FENN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than two dozen storage tanks holding crude oil, gasoline and other contaminants ruptured or otherwise failed when Harvey slammed into the Texas coast, spilling at least 145,000 gallons (548,868 liters) of fuel and spewing toxic pollutants into the air, according to an Associated Press analysis of pollution reports submitted to state and federal regulators.

The tank failures follow years of warnings that the Houston area's petrochemical industry was ill-prepared for a major storm, with about one-third of the 4,500 storage tanks along the Houston Ship Channel located in areas susceptible to flooding, according to researchers.

More of the massive storage tanks could be put to the test in coming days as Hurricane Irma bears down on Florida. The tanks are prone to float and break during floods, and Harvey's unprecedented rainfalls revealed a new vulnerability when the roofs of some storage tanks sank under the weight of so much water.

Federal and state rules require companies to be prepared for spills, but mandate no specific measures to secure storage tanks at refineries, chemical plants and oil production sites.

Although Florida has no oil refineries, it has more than 20 petroleum product storage terminals in coastal communities and about 30 chemical companies with a presence in the state, including a significant number of facilities in the Tampa Bay area, according to the American Chemistry Council and U.S. Energy Information Administration.

"Tampa Bay is one of the most vulnerable cities in the country" to hurricanes, said John Pardue, a Louisiana State University professor who has researched problems with storage tanks during storms.

"But there's no requirement that says when you're in a hurricane zone you've got to do things differently," Pardue added. "If we're going to continue to put some of these facilities in harm's way, it would be great to have some specific regulations" to safeguard storage tanks.

The storm surge from Harvey was small enough that the refineries in the Houston Ship Channel appear to have avoided the huge spills associated with past storms such as Hurricane Katrina, when ruptured storage tanks released several millions of gallons of oil including into residential areas, according to Jamie Padgett, an associate professor at Rice University who has inventoried the Houston Ship Channel's storage tanks.

One difference during Harvey was that prior to the storm, some refineries apparently were able to fill up their storage tanks to make them less buoyant and therefore less prone to floating and being damaged, said Kyle Isakower, vice president of regulatory policy at the American Petroleum Institute.

That wasn't the case with about a dozen smaller storage tanks that experienced spills in Fayette County west of Houston, said Ron Whitmire with EnerVest, the Houston-based company that operated the tanks. The capacity of those tanks ranged from about 250 to 400 barrels, which he said was not large enough to resist the force of the floodwaters that swept them away.

"Do we plan for storms and hurricanes? Absolutely," Whitmire said. "But nobody plans for 50-plus inches of rain."

The record rainfall also exposed problems among almost 400 large storage tanks in the Houston area that have "floating roofs" that go up or down depending on how much fuel is inside the containers. The unprecedented rains that came with Harvey caused 14 of those roofs to sink, in some instances allowing the chemicals inside them to escape, according to company reports and Padgett of Rice.

There are no government rules dictating how tanks are designed. But the American Petroleum Institute has established industry standards for tank construction that call for tanks to be able to drain at a minimum 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain over a 24-hour period. Rain was falling at more than twice that rate during Harvey, Padgett said.

At least two of the floating roof failures occurred in gasoline storage tanks at Shell Oil's Deer Park refinery and another occurred at Exxon Mobil's Baytown refinery.

Pollution reports submitted by the companies to Texas regulators blamed the roof problems on Harvey's excess rainfall. The reports said air pollutants including benzene, toluene and xylene were released into the atmosphere. Long-term exposure to such pollutants can cause cancer, although Texas officials said they never reached concentrations high enough in the storm's wake to cause health concerns.

A Shell representative said in a statement to the AP that the roof problems presented an "extremely rare" circumstance and that company workers had quickly responded by spraying the spilled fuel with foam to suppress any harmful vapors. All the gasoline that was released was contained on-site, Shell spokesman Ray Fisher said.

Exxon Mobil spokeswoman Charlotte Huffaker said safety was a priority for the company and it was able to lessen environmental damage from Harvey by shutting down equipment in advance. Huffaker said Exxon "reported and responded to the event as soon as it was identified."

As state and federal officials investigate the impacts from Harvey, it's uncertain how much spilled material flowed off-site from the storage yards, oil production areas and refineries.

It's expected to take about two weeks from the time of the spills for any contamination in the ship channel to reach Galveston Bay, according to Hanadi Rifai, director of the graduate program in environmental engineering at the University of Houston.

Texas has rules governing protections for underground storage tanks during floods, but not for above-ground tanks found at many refineries and chemical plants, according to Andrea Morrow, a spokeswoman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Morrow declined to say if the agency planned to investigate the Harvey-related tank failures and whether tanks that failed had been properly secured before the storm.

"We have established a Unified Command with other state and federal partners, and are in the field conducting rapid needs assessment at this time," she said. "Due to the widespread impact from Harvey, the TCEQ anticipates conducting many storm-related investigations over the next several months."

Health & Fitness

Health advocates are urging incoming college students to get a new meningitis vaccine. DREAMSTIME

Health advocates urge incoming college students to get new meningitis vaccine

By MICHELE MUNZ
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/TNS

As young adults head off to college and into close quarters with others in dorms, cafeterias and classrooms, health advocates urge students and their parents to consider a new vaccine that may not be on their radar.

The meningitis B vaccine, federally approved in late 2014, can protect against most B strains of the disease, which account for about 50 percent of all meningitis cases in young adults.

Meningitis is a highly contagious bacterial disease that starts with flu-like symptoms of fever, fatigue and body aches. Teenagers and college students living in close quarters are high-risk groups for the disease. It can be spread by sharing things like cups, utensils, cigarettes and lipstick.

It can be treated with antibiotics if caught early, but can escalate quickly to swelling of the brain and spinal cord. While only about 1,000 people in the U.S. get meningitis each year, it leads to death in 10 percent to 15 percent of cases and can cause permanent brain damage, hearing loss and loss of limbs.

"It takes so little to be protected against it and the effects of meningitis are just so devastating, so why risk it?" said Jill Thompson, director of strategic initiative at Generate Health, a St. Louis regional coalition of organizations and advocates working to improve health.

The coalition has created a toolkit to help area college and universities educate students about meningitis, which includes sample letters to parents and students, informational graphics and social media tools.

"We do a lot to keep all those working in the immunization field up to date with this ever-changing field," Thompson said, especially in the area of meningitis.

Many families are just becoming familiar with the combination meningitis vaccine which protects against the A, C, W and Y strains. It involves a shot around age 11 and then a booster dose after age 16.

Missouri legislation took effect before the 2015-2016 school year requiring every public university student living on campus to get the combination vaccine.

Starting last school year, students entering the eighth and 12th grades in Missouri are also required to have the vaccine. Illinois started requiring it for sixth- and 12th-graders in 2015.

Now the separate meningitis B vaccine has been added to the mix. Because it is new, no laws yet require it, but Missouri legislation passed last year requires all public higher education institutions to educate students about the strain and the vaccine available to prevent it.

The Generate Health initiative is urging all students, not just those living on campus, to get both types of vaccines.

"If we can save lives or prevent any disabilities, I think we need to do what we can," said Deborah Artman, an instructor at St. Louis University School of Nursing who is helping lead the initiative by Generate Health.

Artman said she is requiring her public health nursing students this fall to create a student awareness campaign about the new vaccine.

Outbreaks involving the B strain occurred on five college campuses from March 2013 to February 2016, according to the National Meningitis Association. These outbreaks, at Santa Clara University, the University of Oregon, Providence College, Princeton University and the University of California, Santa Barbara resulted in two deaths. One student lost both feet, and some suffered neurological effects.

A University of Missouri student was sickened by the strain in February 2015.

Over the past 10 years in Missouri, 154 people of all ages have been sickened by meningitis, according to state health department data. Of those, B strains were found to cause 34 cases, but the strain was unknown in 40 cases.

Thompson said pediatricians are already suggesting the vaccine when teens come in for their annual appointments.

"It's a deadly disease, and we want to protect our kids," she said.

Teach your kids good hand hygiene

It's important to teach your children good hand hygiene at home as they get ready to head back to the classroom.

Dr. Robert Jacobson, a Mayo Clinic pediatrician, says parents need to be the leaders when it comes to ensuring their children know the importance of clean hands.

"Hands turn out to be the dirtiest things—the things most likely to carry germs, and the things we're more likely to put near our mouths, near our food, in our nose, and in our eyes," says Jacobson. "If you're talking about weapons of mass destruction at home, you're talking about the hands. Hand hygiene is difficult if you just depend on it happening at school and you don't do anything about it at home."

Teach your kids good hand hygiene. DREAMSTIME

Parents have an opportunity to lead the way. Jacobson says children need to get into a habit about hand-washing, and they'll do it when they have examples at home.

"I ask my parents to be demonstrative when setting examples for their children," he says. "Say things like, 'It's time to get breakfast ready. I'm going to wash my hands with soap and water before I reach into the refrigerator to get your food. I just came in from taking out the trash. I can pour you a glass of milk, but I have to wash my hands first. The bottle dropped on the floor. Let me pick it up, clean this up and go straight to the sink and wash my hands with soap and water before I go back to eating."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stresses the importance of proper hand hygiene as a way to help families and communities stay healthy. Despite widespread knowledge of the importance of hand-washing, the CDC says there is room for improvement. A recent study showed that only 31 percent of men and 65 percent of women washed their hands after using a public restroom. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

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Life & Style

Del Toro's 'The Shape of Water' wins Golden Lion at Venice

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Guillermo del Toro's monster thriller "The Shape of Water" took top prize at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday, capping an 11-day event where the demons of social division and environmental disaster loomed large on the screen.

Del Toro was named winner of the Golden Lion by a jury headed by U.S. actress Annette Bening, beating contenders including George Clooney's "Suburbicon" and Alexander Payne's "Downsizing."

The Mexican director said his victory sent a message to "remain pure and stay with your faith, in whatever you have faith in."

"In my case, it's monsters," said the 52-year-old director of films rich in demons and other fantastical creatures, including "Hellboy" and "Pan's Labyrinth."

"I have never been a sportsman and this feels like running the marathon and winning," del Toro said after collecting the trophy. "This movie took six years to get made, so after six years this is the beginning of getting there and feeling the reward and the love of an audience—in this case the love of a jury and of a festival."

The victory gives immediate awards-season momentum to "The Shape of Water," the story of a mute young woman, played by Sally Hawkins, who falls for a mysterious sea creature being held at a high-security lab. Many viewers in Venice fell for the movie's audacious mix of genres: It's a monster movie, a Cold War thriller, social-issues drama and even, at times, a musical.

Guillermo del Toro holds the Golden Lion for best film for 'The Shape Of Water' during the award ceremony at the 74th Venice Film Festival at the Venice Lido, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

AP

Del Toro said his win was a vindication for monster movies, science fiction and other sometimes-derided cinema genres.

"This is a beautiful encouragement, a beautiful act of love, and I think it is something very necessary," he told reporters. "It's about time that we understand that you cannot only legitimize certain genres" and not others.

The 74th edition of the world's oldest film festival brought stars including Clooney, Matt Damon and Jennifer Lawrence to the canal-crossed Italian city's lush Lido island.

Del Toro's film was one of several in the lineup that looked anxiously at humanity's treatment of the Earth and one another.

Similar concerns showed up in the small-town rage depicted in Martin McDonagh's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri"; in the spiritual agonies of Paul Schrader's eco-drama "First Reformed"; in the migrants fleeing war, drought and hunger in Ai Weiwei's documentary "Human Flow"; and in "mother!", Darren Aronofsky's wild parable of Mother Earth under attack.

The festival's runner-up Grand Jury Prize went to Israeli director Samuel Maoz's "Foxtrot," a compelling study of a family's grief and the way trauma echoes through the generations.

Maoz, who won the Golden Lion in 2009 for his war film "Lebanon," has received some negative reaction in Israel because "Foxtrot" is critical of the army, the country's most respected institution.

Maoz said no society could flourish when "critics are considered to be traitors."

"If I criticize the place I live, I do it because I worry," he said. "I do it because I want to protect it. I do it from love."

France's Xavier Legrand was named best director for his first full-length film "Custody," which also won the festival's first-feature prize.

Palestinian stage veteran Kamel El Basha was named best actor for Lebanese director Ziad Doueiri's drama "The Insult." Britain's Charlotte Rampling took the best actress prize for Andrea Pallaoro's film "Hannah."

Other winners included Warwick Thornton's Australian Western "Sweet Country," which won a Special Jury Prize, and McDonagh's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," which took the trophy for best screenplay.

U.S. actor Charlie Plummer, 18, was named best young performer for portraying a lonely boy who befriends a tired old racehorse in Andrew Haigh's "Lean on Pete."

Italian director Susanna Nicchiarelli's "Nico, 1988," a biopic of the former Velvet Underground singer Nico, won the Horizons competition, which focuses on newer directors and edgier fare.

Venice has a track record of launching films toward Hollywood awards success. This year's edition produced a crop of potential acting nominees, including Frances McDormand for "Three Billboards," Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland for "The Leisure Seeker" and Lawrence for "mother!"

Venice's first-ever prize for best virtual reality went to "Arden's Wake," a post-apocalyptic story by Eugene Y.K. Chung of the San Francisco-based startup Penrose.

Chung said virtual reality "is where film was 100 years ago, an emerging art form."

"And it's going to be a real exciting journey," he said.

In book, Clinton admits mistakes, casts blame for 2016 loss

NEW YORK (AP)—In a candid and pointed new book, Hillary Clinton relives her stunning defeat to Donald Trump, admitting to personal mistakes and defending campaign strategy even as her return to the stage refocuses attention on a race Democrats still can't believe they lost.

Clinton is unsparing in her criticism of Trump and also lays out some of the factors she believes contributed to her loss: interference from Russian hackers, accusations leveled at her by former FBI Director James Comey, a divisive primary battle with Bernie Sanders, even her gender. She also addresses common criticisms of her campaign, including the idea that she didn't have a compelling narrative for seeking the presidency and that she ignored Midwestern turf where Trump picked up enough white working-class voters to win several battleground states.

"Some critics have said that everything hinged on me not campaigning enough in the Midwest," Clinton writes in the book "What Happened." ''And I suppose it is possible that a few more trips to Saginaw or a few more ads on the air in Waukesha could have tipped a couple of thousand voters here or there."

"But let's set the record straight: we always knew that the industrial Midwest was crucial to our success, just as it had been for Democrats for decades, and contrary to the popular narrative, we didn't ignore those states," she wrote.

Clinton already is taking some criticism—complete with mockery from late-night television hosts—for planning book-tour stops in the Great Lakes and Midwestern states that ultimately cost her the election. But she writes that her campaign had more staff and spent more on advertising in both Michigan and Pennsylvania, two states she lost, than President Barack Obama did when he won them in 2012.

She acknowledges that "if there's one place where we were caught by surprise, it was Wisconsin," saying that polls showed her ahead until the end. But while she did not visit the state in the fall, she noted that her surrogates blanketed the state.

In this April 6, 2017 file photo, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks during the Women in the World Summit in New York.

AP

In Wisconsin, Democratic pollster Paul Maslin called it a "bitter irony" that Clinton is now trying to reach voters—or consumers—in states he believes her campaign mostly ignored. But he said it's ultimately a side show from a has-been.

"Let her do whatever she's going to do for whatever reason she's doing it, but it doesn't matter. There's just so much else happening every day with Trump," Maslin said. He said he hopes Clinton understands that "most Democrats are beyond" blaming her for November. "For her sake, I hope she can sell enough books, but if she thinks she's affecting the debate in any way, I think she's more delusional than anyone thought."

Clinton's anger is most sharply focused on Comey. She said that all of the theories about why she lost need "to be tested against the evidence that I was winning until October 28, when Jim Comey injected emails back into the election."

She called her use of a private email server while serving at the State Department "dumb" but accused Comey of tarnishing her image and called him "rash" for publicly re-opening the probe in the campaign's final days. She also owns up to other mistakes, saying her comment about putting coal miners out of business was the mistake "I regret the most" and that her paid speeches to Wall Street banks were bad "optics."

Many Democrats have viewed Clinton's return to the spotlight with trepidation, fearing it could trigger another round of infighting over the future of the party between her more centrist supporters and Sanders' progressives.

Michigan Democratic Chairman Brandon Dillon, whose state Clinton lost by about 10,000 votes, said Clinton's book can help Democrats try to "learn the right lessons from 2016." But he said Democrats and other activists on the left should avoid using Clinton's re-emergence to rehash 2016.

"There's a clear difference between all Democrats and any of the Republicans. That's what we should be focusing on," Dillon said.

In a recent interview, Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon argued that history will render a favorable verdict on Clinton and her approach to Trump.

"All of these things she tried to warn people about that were a theoretical concern ... now it's real," said Fallon. "He's the president."

In the book, obtained by The Associated Press ahead of its release date, Clinton is unsparing in her assessment of the president, calling him "a clear and present danger to the country and the world." She says she considered saying to Trump: "Back up, you creep. Get away from me" when he loomed over her shoulder during a general election debate.

But Clinton, who has a reputation for avoiding blame for her failures, said she takes "responsibility for all" of her campaign's mistakes.

"You can blame the data, blame the message, blame anything you want -- but I was the candidate," she writes. "It was my campaign. Those were my decisions."

She also expressed frustration over what she felt was unfair media coverage.

New Miss America to be crowned Sunday night in Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—The next Miss America will soon be crowned, just as a deadly hurricane slams into Florida and not long after another one inundated Texas.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have been a backdrop to the Miss America preliminary competition this week, with contestants from storm-tossed or threatened states sending messages of support and promises of prayers to those in harm's way.

Contestants from Texas and Florida have each won a preliminary competition leading into Sunday's nationally televised finale.

Miss Texas Margana Wood gave a shout-out to her flooded hometown, Houston; she won Wednesday night's swimsuit preliminary.

Miss Florida Sara Zeng won Friday's swimsuit prelim, and promised she'll be part of the post-Irma cleanup and recovery effort, whether as Miss America or not.

It's an open question how many people in pageant-obsessed parts of the country will even be able to watch the finale on TV, with thousands displaced in Texas and nearby, and a massive evacuation having been ordered for Florida; power outages already had begun by Saturday night.

AP

Contestants greet onstage in the swimsuit completion during the first night of Miss America 2018 preliminaries in Atlantic City, N.J., Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017.

The 97th Miss America competition will take place at Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall, where it originated as a way to extend summer tourism to the weekend after Labor Day.

The 51 contestants—one from each state plus the District of Columbia—will be vying to succeed the outgoing Miss America Savvy Shields, who won the title last September as Miss Arkansas.

Miss Louisiana Laryssa Bonacquisti was off to a good start heading into the home stretch: She won swimsuit and talent preliminaries on successive nights Thursday and Friday.

There's one big change to this year's finale. Contestants nearing the finish line will face a second round of onstage questioning as judges narrow the field. Sam Haskell, executive chairman and CEO of the Miss America Organization, said the second round of onstage interviews is designed to bring out more about the contestants.

The finale will be broadcast live on ABC beginning at 9 p.m. EDT.

Before that, in a ceremony that TV viewers will not see, 12 Gold Star mothers will be honored onstage as honorary Miss Americas for life, and will talk about their sons who were killed while serving in the military.

Beyonce sheds tears as she visits victims of Harvey

HOUSTON (AP) — Beyonce returned to her hometown of Houston to provide comfort to those affected by Hurricane Harvey, telling them, "This is a celebration of survival."

Accompanied by her mother and former Destiny's Child bandmate Michelle Williams, Beyonce visited with evacuees Friday at the St. John's Church, where she grew up singing.

She wiped away tears as she listened to their stories, including from a family of 16 that fled to Houston after Hurricane Katrina and this time escaped their home through a picture window.

Beyonce told them, "The things that really matter are your health and your children, and your family and your life."

Among the other celebrities who visited evacuees at shelters Friday were Janet Jackson, comedian Kevin Hart and actress Jennifer Garner.

Aaron Sorkin on directing: 'I had the time of my life'

TORONTO (AP)—Aaron Sorkin was sitting in a restaurant with producers Amy Pascal and Mark Gordon, ticking off the names of top Hollywood directors who might be a good fit for the script Sorkin had just finished: "Molly's Game," a drama about the so-called "poker princess" Molly Bloom.

"When we got to the end, Mark and Amy said, 'But we think you should direct it,'" Sorkin recalled in an interview. "And I grabbed at the chance."

"Molly's Game" premiered Friday night at the Toronto International Film Festival where it was immediately greeted with rave reviews, awards forecasts for star Jessica Chastain and a general reaction of: Sorkin, director, is a rip-roaring success.

Sorkin

He had come close before.

"I was going to direct 'The Social Network.' Amy Pascal, Scott Rudin and I said, 'You know what, let's just give it to David Fincher and once he's passes, I'll direct it,'" said Sorkin. "I've never been so lucky to not direct something in my life."

Fate intervened, Sorkin and Fincher created one of the most celebrated films of the decade, and Sorkin's chance to take the director's chair had to wait. Danny Boyle took the reins of Sorkin's next script, the Apple co-founder biopic "Steve Jobs."

But the cards came up different for Sorkin on "Molly's Game," which STX Entertainment will release Nov. 22. The story is a rich one—full of Sorkin's whip-smart dialogue—that Sorkin says he became obsessed with telling. "At some point, you have to fall in love," he said. "With this, it was right away."

The film is partly based on Bloom's memoir about running a high-stakes poker game in Los Angeles where bold-faced names like Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire and Ben Affleck were regulars. Bloom was herself a former elite freestyle skier whose Olympic chances were dramatically derailed by an injury. She was later arrested as part of a larger mafia investigation.

Impressed by Bloom's intellect, sense of humor and character, Sorkin could see Bloom was more interesting than her tabloid persona.

"She struck me as a unique movie heroine," he says.

Lady Gaga says she's taking a 'rest' from music after tour

TORONTO (AP) — Lady Gaga says that she's planning to take a "rest" from music and "slow down for a moment for some healing."

The pop star was at in Toronto on Friday for a pair of concerts and to premiere a Netflix documentary about herself, "Gaga: Five Foot Two." The film, playing at the Toronto International Film Festival, chronicles her life, February's Super Bowl performance and her struggle with chronic pain.

Gaga teared up speaking to reporters about her health issues. "It's hard," she said, "but it's liberating too."

She later told The Associated Press that she will finish her current tour, which runs through December, and then take some time for herself.

"When this tour is over I will take a little downtime from myself, and then I'll get back to doing what I love," she said. "I'm never not making music. I'm never not creating. I just am excited to spend some time reflecting on that past ten years and getting excited about what I want to create next."

The singer said at the earlier press conference that she'll still be creating during a break from music. "It doesn't mean I don't have some things up my sleeve," said Gaga.

Gaga recently shot a remake of "A Star is Born," co-starring Bradley Cooper.

Herpes infection keeps lonely woman on the dating sidelines

DEAR ABBY: I am a 65-year-old woman, attractive and lonely. I am uncomfortable using dating sites because I have genital herpes. I was infected by my first husband more than 40 years ago.

If I were to meet someone on one of those sites, when would be the right time to reveal my problem? After we have gotten to know each other? Or should I be up front about it and say something when we first meet? I am, naturally, afraid of condemnation and/or contempt.

UNSURE IN NEW YORK

DEAR UNSURE: Herpes is an infection, not a scarlet letter. Many people carry the virus, and a surprising number of them are not aware they have it and can infect others. In fact, according to the American Sexual Health Association, one in six individuals in the United States between the ages of 14 and 49 has genital herpes (HSV-2).

Because you are hesitant about when to reveal your status, please visit the ASHA website (ashasexualhealth.org). You will find it informative. It includes a section on relationships, suggestions about when to tell someone, how to talk to a partner, reactions to expect, etc.

Another website that has been mentioned in my column before is H-Date.com. It offers a free dating service through which thousands of men and women meet. Many nice, eligible people—people just like you—have herpes and live full, happy lives. I hope you will check it out.

DEAR ABBY: I recently moved to a new area of my state. I like the environment, the cost of living, etc., but there's one problem I don't know how to address. The people here share far too much information with strangers in everyday conversation. I think there should be some boundaries and limits on what is said in public.

While I was waiting to ask a salesclerk a question, the person ahead of me in line described her entire medical history in detail. She went on and on and on. There are times I can't get through a store without someone asking me question after question. They just look for that opening and start throwing questions at me! I believe in being polite, so I have reached the point of just nodding my head or responding with a yes or no most of the time. It's really off-putting. A lot of these people need to back off.

NEEDS BOUNDARIES IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR NEEDS BOUNDARIES: Many people ask questions as a way to start a conversation because they are interested in you or are lonely. Because you consider their questions invasive and you need boundaries, you will have to set them. A way to do that would be to tell the questioner that the query is a personal one, and you prefer not to share that kind of information with strangers.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

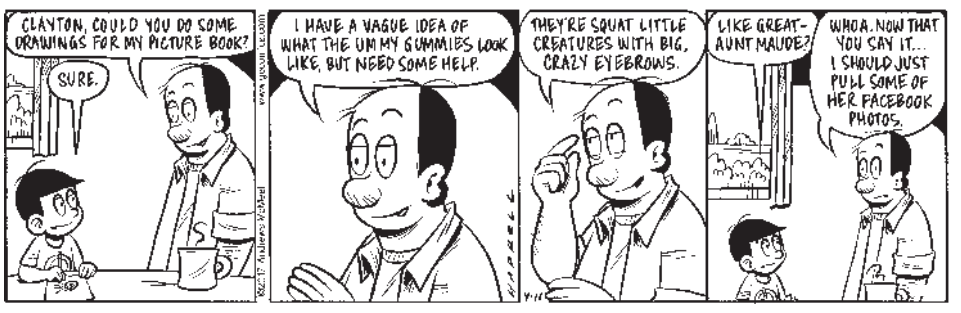
MOM WANTS ME TO CLEAN MY ROOM. THIS IS THE LAST STRAW!
I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS TOTALI-TARIANISM! I'M SECEDING!
GEE, CAN YOU SECEDE FROM YOUR OWN FAMILY?
WHY NOT?! I NEVER SIGNED UP FOR THIS GROUP! I WASN'T EVEN CONSULTED!
THE ONLY REASON MOM AND DAD ARE MY PARENTS IS BECAUSE I WAS BORN TO THEM!
A BIOLOGICAL CONSPIRACY, HUH?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

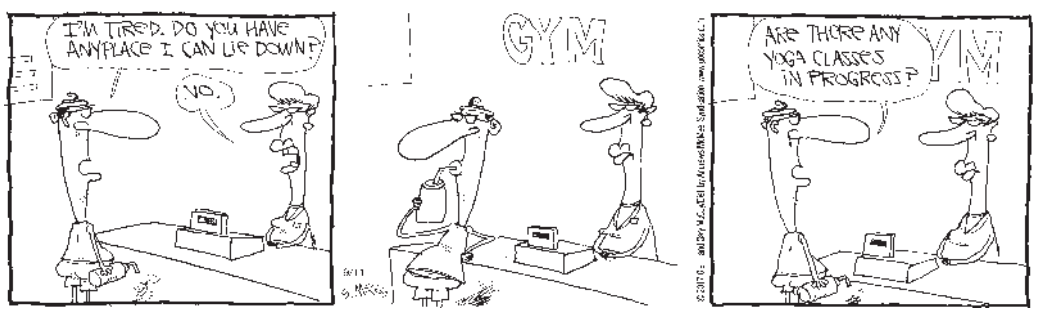
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON, COULD YOU DO SOME DRAWINGS FOR MY PICTURE BOOK?
SURE.
I HAVE A VAGUE IDEA OF WHAT THE UM MY GUMMIES LOOK LIKE, BUT NEED SOME HELP.
THEY'RE SQUAT LITTLE CREATURES WITH BIG, CRAZY EYEBROWS.
LIKE GREAT-AUNT MAUDE?
WHOA. NOW THAT YOU SAY IT... I SHOULD JUST PULL SOME OF HER FACEBOOK PHOTOS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dieter's target
5 Low digit
8 Roundish 'do
12 Fury
13 URL ending
14 Get bigger
15 Yemen neighbor
16 The one and only
18 Henner of "Taxi"
20 Act parts
21 Beanies
23 Mel of baseball
24 Loyal
28 Thailand, once
31 Sighed sounds
32 Appears
34 Notable time
35 Source
37 John Wayne film
39 Your
41 Do in
42 Placed in the attic
45 Phase
49 Play by Sam Shepard
51 — gin fizz
52 Broad-casts
53 Mimic
54 — Bator
55 "Holy cow!"
56 June honoree
57 Citi Field team

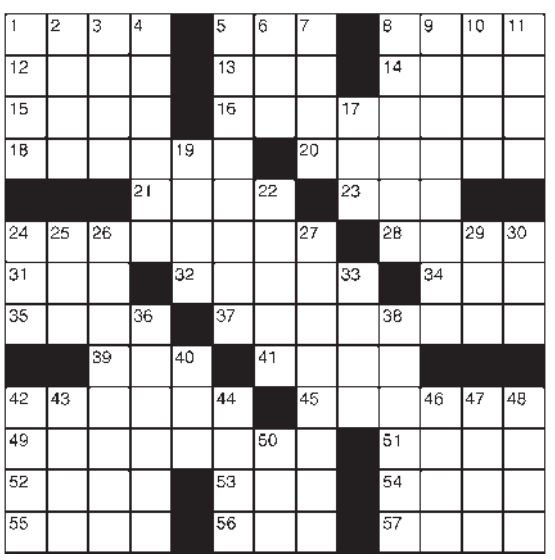
DOWN

1 Gift tag word
2 Tibetan monk
3 Culture medium
4 "Don't fight!"
5 One of eight
6 Fish-fowl insert
7 Flight-less birds
8 Shoelace tips
9 Edge of a settle-ment
10 Pere-grinate
11 Has bills
17 Author Umberto
19 Chemists' rooms
22 Litigants
24 Pitch
25 Plato's P
26 Traveling shows for GIs
27 Copied
29 "Exodus" hero
30 Yoga pad
33 Salty septet
36 Separate wheat from chaff
38 Drywall material
40 Ever-green type
42 Men-only
43 Half a sextet
44 Out of juice
46 Vogue rival
47 Paint layer
48 Till bills
50 Hot tub

Solution time: 26 mins.

H	O	G		A	S	A	F		G	L	A	M
E	K	E		E	L	L	E		F	I	P	E
A	R	M	E	N	I	A	N		I	B	E	T
P	A	S	S	E	D		N	A	M			
			T	A	E		A	R	M	O	R	Y
B	A	B	E	S		T	N	T		S	E	E
E	V	E	S		S	A	T		A	L	A	N
L	E	A		E	K	G		A	T	O	M	S
A	R	M	A	N	I		R	C	A			
			B	A	M		A	C	R	O	S	S
G	H	U	B		A	H	M	O	I	H	E	S
A	I	R	E		S	U	B	S		C	A	T
B	O	N	Y		K	N	O	T		A	S	S

Last Friday's Answer 9-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Comrie, 37; Taraji P. Henson, 47; Harry Connick Jr., 50; Virginia Madsen, 56.

Happy Birthday: Take time to listen and learn all you can about the people and the things that interest you most. Diversification will lead to satisfaction and a better understanding of what you can do to make your life better. Communication is the best way to deal with pending problems. Stabilize your life by making sound choices. Your numbers are 2, 6, 13, 23, 31, 35, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your emotions tucked away when dealing with personal finances. The position you are in doesn't warrant a lot of wiggle room if you are trying to make a point. Trust in your skills, knowledge and experience to speak for you. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Refuse to give in to someone's needling. Anger will not solve the problem, but staying calm and being responsible will. Controlling your emotions will make it impossible for anyone to peg you as being emotionally unstable. Set a goal and work alone. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Expressing your feelings will not be met with encouragement or sympathy, and airing your opinions could lead to an argumentative situation. Your best option is to implement change that is self-directed, not aimed at trying to change others. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't take on more than necessary. Perfection and detail will result in praise. Risks may tempt you, but in the end you are better off taking the safe route and avoiding the stress that results from uncertainty. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take better care of your health. Taking on too much will take its toll. Don't worry so much about quantity when it's the quality of what you do that will have the biggest impact on the outcome of any situation you face. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set up interviews, question experts and get the low-down about anything you want to pursue. Business trips are favored, and checking out new technology or trends will help you head in a productive and prosperous direction. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Focus on saving, not spending. Don't be tempted by slick offers or purchases that promise the impossible. Don't be impulsive. Look for inexpensive ways to share your time with someone you love. Trust in what you know. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Consider what's important to you and what isn't. Refuse to let a personal issue interfere with doing what's right. Stick to a script when dealing with work matters, and do your best to avoid taking a physical risk. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Apply yourself by putting the most into whatever jobs you are given. A show of strength and courage along with truth and integrity will make a statement about the type of person you are and what you are capable of doing. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Be assertive when it comes to negotiations and wheeling and dealing. Don't let anyone put you down or take care of your affairs for you. If you want something, make it happen. Stick close to home and familiar territory. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be open to negotiations. Making changes to your home will lift your spirits. Partnerships will be emotional, but with a couple of adjustments and discussions, you will find a way to mend any fences. Physical activity and romance are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Communications will be misconstrued. Don't leave room for error and question anything that sounds suspicious. Anger will not solve a dilemma, but innovative solutions will. Be direct and open to suggestions. Honesty and trust will be crucial in resolving pending problems. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are astute, practical and tolerant. You are persevering and tasteful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7		5		3		6	9	
			8			2		4
		6			5			
	8		5	4		3		
2				1				5
		4		2	3		7	
			6			5		
4		8			9			
	9	2		5		4		7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	6	2	9	7	5	4	1	8
1	4	5	6	3	8	9	2	7
8	7	9	2	4	1	6	3	5
7	2	3	8	5	4	1	9	6
4	9	1	7	2	6	5	8	3
5	8	6	3	1	9	2	7	4
2	5	8	4	9	3	7	6	1
9	3	4	1	6	7	8	5	2
6	1	7	5	8	2	3	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

JERRY LEWIS (1926-2017) **Solution: 10 letters**

C	Y	R	R	D	R	A	T	E	L	E	T	H	O	N
K	R	A	W	E	N	Y	O	B	D	N	A	R	R	E
S	A	B	M	A	H	E	S	Y	D	E	M	O	C	W
L	G	L	E	N	L	P	L	P	A	T	S	Y	A	J
A	A	C	L	L	A	L	O	L	E	S	L	K	L	E
P	A	T	T	I	L	N	E	T	E	C	T	O	L	R
Ⓢ	Ⓓ	Ⓘ	Ⓚ	D	V	B	T	F	S	I	I	C	V	S
T	R	S	T	A	R	E	O	H	R	I	N	A	A	E
I	A	T	I	N	N	R	O	Y	O	E	R	A	L	Y
C	L	S	L	N	P	U	G	J	R	N	D	H	D	L
K	U	U	D	Y	S	T	R	O	P	H	Y	N	C	E
U	C	R	T	E	M	I	T	S	C	O	T	T	I	H
K	S	T	V	O	I	C	E	E	E	D	N	A	S	C
F	U	N	N	Y	A	P	A	P	A	T	H	O	S	A
N	M	A	R	T	I	N	M	H	D	L	A	N	O	R

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Actor, Acts, Anthony, Bellboy, Call, Christopher, Cinderfella, Comedy, Danielle, Danny, Dean, Dystrophy, Errand Boy, Funny, Gary, House, Joseph, Kids, Live, Love, Luck, Martin, Muscular, Newark, New Jersey, Nutty Professor, Palmer, Pathos, Patsy, Patti, Rachel, Ronald, SanDee, Scott, Slapstick, Special, Star, Team, Telethon, Time, Trust, Voice

Last Friday's Answer: Teapot

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!

Opening Date: 08/11/17 **Closing Date: 9/11/17**

JVA#17-011: **Marketing Specialist I**
JVA#17-012: **Accountant II**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the
Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01
or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

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DAY & NIGHT

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2017

Opening date: August 28, 2017 **Closing date: September 15, 2017**

Positions:(1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian) (1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(1)ARFF Maintenance-I (Saipan) (1) General Maintenance-II (Rota-Seaport)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than ***5:00 p.m Friday, September 15, 2017.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ACCOUNTANT

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications:
An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence.
CPA required.
Experience working on non-profit fiscal management and federal grants.
Must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland.
Must have own transportation, with documented insurance, registration and a valid driver's license.

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
Quickbooks and Microsoft Excel expertise.
Familiarity with 2 CFR, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, et. al.

Classification & Salary Range: Part-time, Non-Exempt. 20 – 30 hours per week.
$20.00/hr to $25.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications)

Copies of the full Position Description are available through maisie@endviolencenmi.org or via hard copy at the NMCADSV office (directions below).

Application Deadline and Submission Information:
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, September 15, 2017.
If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only.
Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted via email to maisie@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)** at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance, proof of Certification, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2015-MU-AX-0003 and Grant # G-1701MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Abreu first White Sox to hit cycle in 17 years

CHICAGO (AP)--With a chance to hit for the cycle, Jose Abreu momentarily lost his balance during his eighth-inning dash to third base.

"My legs weren't responding, but I'm a warrior," Abreu said.

Abreu became the first White Sox player to hit for the cycle in 17 years, among a season-high six Chicago players to go deep in a 13-1 rout of the San Francisco Giants on Saturday night.

Abreu hit his 29th homer in the first off former White Sox starter Jeff Samardzija (9-13), doubled in the third, struck out in the fifth, singled in the seventh against Josh Osich and hit a two-run triple in the eighth versus Roberto Gomez. The previous White Sox player to hit for the cycle was Jose Valentin against the Baltimore Orioles on April 27, 2000.

"Initially, off the bat, I knew he wasn't going to stop," manager Rick Renteria said. "I knew he was going to give an effort. Those things don't happen very often."

Abreu hit a foul ball off his left shin earlier in the at-bat. He has a .363 batting average and 10 homers in his last 25 games.

"No, no," Abreu said when asked whether he would agreed to take a seat.

"I don't like to leave the games," Abreu said. "I like to play the whole game."

Tim Anderson, Avisail Garcia and Yoan Moncada also hit solo home runs, Nicky Delmonico had a two-run home run and Yolmer Sanchez added a three-run homer, the 13th time Chicago hit six or more in a game.

Tim Anderson, Avisail Garcia and Yoan Moncada also hit solo home runs, Nicky Delmonico had a two-run home run and Yolmer Sanchez added a three-run homer, the 13th time Chicago hit six or more in a game.

James Shields (2-7) allowed one run and two hits in a season-high seven innings, retiring 17 of 18 batters before Nick Hundley homered in the seventh. He had been 0-5 with a 6.64 ERA since beating the New York Yankees on June 29.

"It's still a work in progress, but we're moving forward," Shields said of his revamped delivery. "I'm getting the results that I want."

Samardzija (9-13), pitching on the South Side for the first time since the final week of the 2015 season, gave up six runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

A night after they were mathematically eliminated from postseason contention, the Giants (56-88) lost for the 11th time in 15 games. If they lose more than 94 games, they would have their worst record since going 62-100 in 1985.

AP
Chicago White Sox's Jose Abreu watches his solo home run against the San Francisco Giants during the first inning of a baseball game in Chicago on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

Indians 4, Orioles 2

In Cleveland, The Cleveland Indians earned their 17th straight win Saturday, topping the Baltimore Orioles behind a pair of timely swings for Jay Bruce and Francisco Lindor.

Bruce's fourth-inning single put the Indians ahead to stay as Cleveland became just the second team in the expansion era—since 1961— to win 17 straight in a season.

The crowd of 30,459 stood throughout the ninth inning as Cody Allen retired the heart of Baltimore's order for his 25th save.

Cleveland also matched Houston for the best record in the AL at 86-56.

Lindor added his 28th homer in the seventh for the Indians, who haven't lost since Aug. 23. Josh Tomlin (9-9) pitched five-plus innings for the win.

Rockies 6, Dodgers 5

In Los Angeles, Trevor Story hit a two-run homer and drove in three, and Colorado beat Los Angeles, sending the NL West leaders to their ninth straight loss in their worst skid since 1992.

The majors' best team this season has lost eight in a row at Chavez Ravine for the first time in 30 years. The Dodgers have dropped 14 of 15 overall, and they lost their fifth consecutive series for the first time since 2007.

Despite its funk, Los Angeles still owns the best record in baseball at 92-50.

Colorado's fifth straight victory tied the club's longest road winning streak since June 3-10.

Padres 8, Diamondbacks 7

In Phoenix, Carlos Asuaje hit a tying single, and an error by left fielder David Peralta allowed the go-ahead run to score as San Diego overcame a five-run deficit in the ninth inning to beat Arizona.

After trailing 6-0 in the seventh inning and 7-2 in the ninth, San Diego surged ahead, sparked by Wil Myers' second two-run homer of the game.

Arizona nearly came back in the bottom of the ninth, putting runners at the corners against Brad Hand when Jake Lamb walked and J.D. Martinez singled with one out, his fourth hit.

Yankees 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Aroldis Chapman earned his first save since being removed as closer, finishing a one-hitter for the Yankees.

Tyler Austin hit a go-ahead single in the ninth inning for wild card-leading New York.

Texas' only hit was a run-scoring double in the fifth inning off Luis Severino, who went seven innings in his first no-decision since July 15 at Boston.

Chapman struck out two in a perfect ninth for his team-leading 17th save in 21 chances and first since Aug. 15. David Robertson (7-2) had a strikeout in a perfect eighth.

Red Sox 9, Rays 0

In Boston, Red Sox ace Chris Sale struck out eight over six innings, and Dustin Pedroia hit a two-run homer in the first.

It was the fourth consecutive win for the AL East-leading Red Sox, who remained 4 1/2 games ahead of the second-place Yankees.

Andrew Benintendi had three hits and three RBI for Boston, and Mitch Moreland also drove in three runs.

Phillies 5, Nationals 4

In Washington, Rhys Hoskins went deep and drew three walks, helping Philadelphia to the road win.

Maikel Franco hit his 20th homer for the Phillies, who had dropped four of five. Odubel Herrera went 0 for 4, stopping his hitting streak at 21 games.

Philadelphia right-hander Mark Leiter Jr. (3-5) allowed four runs and six hits over six innings.

Nationals right-hander Edwin Jackson (5-5) was charged with five runs in 3 1/3 innings on his 34th birthday.

Cardinals 4, Pirates 3

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina and Matt Carpenter homered, and the Cardinals beat the Pirates to gain ground in the NL Central.

St. Louis pulled within three games of division-leading Chicago with its sixth victory in seven games. Tyler Lyons (4-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win, and Juan Nicasio got three outs for his second save since he was acquired in a trade with Philadelphia on Wednesday.

Royals 5, Twins 2

In Kansas City, Eric Hosmer went 3 for 3, helping Kansas City rally for the win.

The Royals scored three times in the eighth. Lorenzo Cain led off with a single against Ryan Pressly (2-3), and Melky Cabrera walked. Hosmer's single off Buddy Boshers scored pinch-runner Terrance Gore for a 3-2 lead.

Salvador Perez added an RBI double and Alcides Escobar capped the winning rally with a sacrifice fly.

Brewers 15, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Hernan Perez homered and drove in five runs, powering the Brewers to the runaway win.

Chase Anderson (9-3) pitched five scoreless innings as Milwaukee pulled within three games of NL Central-leading Chicago. Anderson also helped himself with two hits and two RBI hours after the Brewers announced Jimmy Nelson has a shoulder injury that will sideline the right-hander for the rest of the season.

Milwaukee broke it open with eight runs in the third against Mike Montgomery (5-8) and reliever Justin Grimm.

Mariners 8, Angels 1

In Seattle, Nelson Cruz hit a three-run homer, Mitch Haniger was a double short of the cycle and Andrew Albers pitched six scoreless innings as Seattle gained ground in the wild-card chase.

Cruz's 32nd homer capped a six-run fourth as Seattle opened an 8-0 lead. Haniger homered in the first, tripled in the third and singled in the fourth. He grounded out in the sixth and was on deck when the eighth ended.

Albers (4-1), acquired from Atlanta on Aug. 11, allowed four hits while striking out four and walking one.

Braves 6, Marlins 5

In Atlanta, Ender Inciarte's bases-loaded walk from Kyle Barraclough with two outs in the ninth inning lifted Atlanta to the victory.

Barraclough threw four straight balls to Inciarte. While Barraclough (5-2) began his slow walk off the field, Inciarte was swarmed by his teammates in an impromptu celebration near first base.

It was the Braves' second ninth-inning win in the series.

Athletics 11, Astros 1, Game 1
Athletics 11, Astros 4, Game 2

In Oakland, normally reliable Houston reliever Chris Devenski allowed two runs in the seventh inning, including Chad Pinder's tiebreaking homer with two outs, and the Astros were swept in a doubleheader.

Houston's third straight loss to the last-place A's loss dropped manager A.J. Hinch's ballclub into a tie with streaking Cleveland for the best record in the American League at 86-56.

Devenski (8-4) had allowed one earned run over his previous 15 appearances before getting touched up for two in the seventh.

Blue Jays 5, Tigers 4

In Toronto, Kevin Pillar had four hits for Toronto, including a tiebreaking home run, and Brett Anderson pitched six innings for his first victory with the Blue Jays.

Pillar broke a 2-all tie with a leadoff drive against Warwick Saupold (3-2) in the sixth, helping Toronto snap a three-game losing streak against Detroit.

Pillar's 15th homer came one inning after he jumped into the center field wall to snare a deep drive by Tigers infielder Dixon Machado.

Mets 6, Reds 1

In New York, Rafael Montero overcame five walks to win his third straight start, Kevin Plawecki hit a two-run homer and the Mets won their fourth straight game.

Montero (5-9) allowed one run and four hits in five innings. The right-hander entered 3-1 with a 2.90 ERA in his previous five starts.

Cincinnati's third consecutive defeat ensured its fourth losing season in a row and 14th in 17 years. Homer Bailey (4-8) allowed five runs and six hits in six-plus innings.

Stephens tops Keys for 1st Grand Slam title

AP
Sloane Stephens of the United States returns a shot from Madison Keys of the United States during the women's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Sloane Stephens' remarkably rapid rise from a ranking of 957th in early August to U.S. Open champion on Saturday began with the slow work of coming back from surgery on her left foot.

After being off tour for 11 months because of her injury, Stephens easily beat her close friend Madison Keys 6-3, 6-0 in the first Grand Slam final for both, becoming only the second unseeded woman to win the tournament in the Open era, which began in 1968.

"I mean, there is no words to describe how I got here—the process it took or anything like that," Stephens said, "because if you told someone this story, they'd be, like, 'That's insane.'"

After the operation in January, Stephens couldn't walk for a month. It wasn't until May that she would get back onto a tennis court—and even then she was off her feet, plopped on a wood table at a practice facility at UCLA while aiming her racket at balls tossed by her coach, Kamau Murray. From there, Murray said, Stephens progressed to sitting while rolling around on an armless office chair. Two weeks later, Stephens finally was able to stand in place while working on her swing. Another two weeks, and she was allowed to move.

"Definitely," Murray said Saturday, "not fun for her."

Nor was it all that fun to face a pal with so much at stake. Stephens, 24, and Keys, 22, have known each other for about a decade, first as juniors, then on tour and as U.S. Fed Cup and Olympic teammates. They texted and spoke on the phone early in 2017, when both sat out the Australian Open because of injuries — Keys had surgery on her left wrist during the offseason, then again in June.

When the match ended after only 61 minutes, with Stephens claiming the last eight games, they met at the net for a long hug . While waiting for the trophy ceremony to begin, Stephens walked over and plopped herself down in a courtside chair next to Keys, so they could chat side-by-side.

"Sloane is truly one of my favorite people and to get to play her was really special. Obviously I didn't play my best tennis today and was disappointed," Keys said. "But Sloane, being the great friend that she is, was very supportive. And if there's someone I have to lose to today, I'm glad it's her."

They hammed it up afterward, too. When Stephens was presented with her $3.7 million winner's check, she grabbed Keys' arm, as if to stop herself from fainting at the sum.

"That's a lot of money!" Stephens said. Keys eyed the check and teased, "I'll hold it for her."

Keys texted Murray a couple of days before the U.S. Open began to arrange a practice session with Stephens. And the two finalists planned to party together Saturday night.

"She can buy me drinks," Keys said. "All of the drinks."

This was only the second time in the Open era that two women were making their Grand Slam final debuts against each other in New York.

Keys acknowledged afterward it was all a bit much for her, and it showed: She wound up with 30 unforced errors.

"I definitely think my play today came down to nerves and all of that," she said, "and I just don't think I handled the occasion perfectly."

Stephens, meanwhile, made only six unforced errors.

Told of that number by a reporter during her engaging news conference, filled with quips and smiles, Stephens slapped a palm on the table in front her, then snapped her fingers and said: "Shut the front door. I don't think that's ever happened to me before. Oh, my God. That's a stat."

Still, she had dealt with jitters beforehand, too.

Murray went to Stephens' hotel room Friday night to check on her, using as an excuse for the visit that he needed to deliver some clean laundry. This is how he said the conversation went:

Stephens: "You wanted to see if I was nervous."

Murray: "Yeah."

Stephens: "I am."

"We just laughed and chuckled and talked about it for about 25 minutes, and after that, it was all good," Murray said. "I mean, probably she was still nervous but, you know, at least give her a chance to get it out."

Nadal-Anderson seems a mismatch, but upsets happen

NEW YORK (AP) —U.S. Open finalists Rafael Nadal and Kevin Anderson are both professional tennis players who were born in 1986. Not much else in common.

Heading into Sunday's match—well, mismatch, apparently—Nadal owns 15 Grand Slam titles, including two at Flushing Meadows in 2010 and 2013. Anderson: zero.

Nadal has participated in 22 major finals. Anderson: zero.

Nadal has spent a total of more than 140 weeks at No. 1, his spot right now. Anderson: zero. Indeed, at No. 32, Anderson is the lowest-ranked U.S. Open finalist since the ATP began using computer rankings in 1973.

Of their previous tour-level matches, Nadal has won four. Anderson: zero.

Add it all up, and this much is certain: There are not a lot of reasons to expect Anderson to beat Nadal.

Sure, the 6-foot-8 (2.03-meter) Anderson, the tallest Grand Slam finalist in history, is equipped with a booming serve—he's been broken only five times across 108 service games over the past two weeks — and so, in theory, the South African could make Nadal uncomfortable. Although even that seems unlikely, given that the 6-foot-1 (1.85-meter) Nadal is among the game's top returners and has won 43 percent of his opponents' service games in the tournament.

"He serves so well. Playing with tons of confidence and doing it very aggressively," Nadal said about Anderson. "I will need to impose my tempo."

Anderson's coach, Neville Godwin, put forth the idea that his guy, only once before even so far as a quarterfinal in 33 previous appearances at majors, should be pressure-free Sunday.

"He's completely free. He's completely surpassed any expectations he may have had," Godwin said. "So he's got to release himself and just go and play."

Yes, there is still a match to be contested, and three sets to be won, and an Anderson victory would not be the first time an unheralded tennis player managed to beat a presumably unbeatable one.

Mickelson, Lahiri among 4 added to Presidents Cup

NEW YORK (AP)—Phil Mickelson was selected as a captain pick for the second straight Presidents Cup, extending a remarkable streak of playing on 23 consecutive U.S. teams.

Anirban Lahiri of India will play for the second time, and it might be just as meaningful.

U.S. captain Steve Stricker used his two picks Wednesday on Mickelson and Charley Hoffman, who finished a fraction of a point out of the top 10 automatic qualifiers in the final week. It will be the first team competition for the 40-year-old Hoffman.

Mickelson was in danger of missing his first Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup since 1993. He hasn't won a tournament since 2013, and he hasn't seriously contended this year while finishing 15th in the standings. Stricker had said he wanted the five-time major champion to show him something, and the 47-year-old Mickelson delivered at the TPC Boston with all four rounds in the 60s to tie for sixth.

"I've been talking to him quite frequently, and he said it was just a matter of time," Stricker said. "He waited all the way till the end, but had a great showing at the Dell Technologies Championship last week. I got reports from the other players that it was the Phil of old."

International captain Nick Price took Emiliano Grillo, who finished 11th in the standings. The surprise was his choice of Lahiri over Hideto Tanihara of Japan, who took Dustin Johnson to the 18th hole in the semifinals of the Dell Match Play in March but hasn't performed well since then.

Price, however, said he wanted experience on a team with four newcomers, and he wanted players to compete primarily on the PGA Tour. And with Lahiri, this Presidents Cup becomes more personal.

The International team was on the verge of winning for the first time since 1998 when Lahiri had a 4-foot birdie putt on the last hole. Chris Kirk made a 15-foot birdie putt, and Lahiri's putt to halve the catch caught the right lip and spun out. He dropped his putter and stared in disbelief with his hand covering his mouth.

Now, he gets another crack at it.

"That experience is really going to help me," Lahiri said. "Obviously, I feel there's some unfinished business. I'm motivated to go out there and make a positive contribution to the team."

The matches start Sept. 28 at Liberty National in New Jersey, where Mickelson has a corporate membership.

It has been a lopsided series from the start in 1994—Mickelson was a captain's pick that year, too—with the International team of players from every country outside the U.S. except for Europe losing every time except for 1998 at Royal Melbourne and the tie in South Africa in 2003.

"I think the challenge will be a little overconfidence," Stricker said.

Stricker said choosing Hoffman was easy. While he hasn't won this year, Hoffman went into the back nine of two majors (Masters, U.S. Open) with a chance to win, along with a World Golf Championship in Ohio. He was in the top 10 until Monday at the TPC Boston, when Chappell moved ahead of him by 0.073 points.

Mickelson was No. 30 in the standings two years ago when he was a captain's pick. This time, he was at No. 15, but there was not a sense that Stricker took him over another player more deserving because no one around Mickelson in the standings had stood out over the last few months.

Messi contract extension expected soon, says Barca official

SPAIN—Barcelona sporting director Robert Fernandez hopes Lionel Messi signs his new deal soon, while he is convinced Andres Iniesta will extend his stay at the club.

The La Liga giants announced in July that Messi had agreed to a contract until 2021, with his previous deal due to expire in 2018.

While a formal signing of the contract was expected to soon follow, Messi is still yet to put pen to paper, leading to speculation over the 30-year-old's future.

Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said earlier this week that Messi's father Jorge had already signed the deal, making it valid.

Fernandez is eager for the deal to be officially completed shortly, saying on Saturday: "I point to our president's words.

"[The signing] is an act which could happen at any moment. I hope it's soon."

Messi delivered for Barca on Saturday, scoring a hat-trick to lead Ernesto Valverde's men to a 5-0 thrashing of Espanyol.

Fernandez lauded the Argentina star for his performance, particularly after the international break.

"He's come back from international duty, after a lot of travel and two tough games," he said.

"He is capable of changing a game at any moment and the difficult thing he manages is to maintain that rhythm."

AP

FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi, left, kicks the ball to score during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Espanyol at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017.

While Messi appears set for a long-term Barca stay, Iniesta's future is less certain.

The star midfielder, 33, is out of contract at the end of the season and yet to agree to a new deal.

"What we want is that Andres is here for many more years and that he ends his career here," Fernandez said.

"I'm convinced that will happen."

Messi has long been a tormenter of Espanyol. Prior to this match, the Argentine attacker had hit 15 goals against his side's city rivals in the Primera Division, more than any other player in the history of the Catalan derby. Now he has three more to add to that tally.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner opened the scoring after 26 minutes. He was marginally offside when he received the ball, but still had plenty to do and sidestepped his markers before rifling into the top corner. Another predatory finish followed before half-time and a third arrived after the break, before goals from Gerard Pique and Luis Suarez rounded off a memorable victory.

So, that is now three wins out of three for Barca in La Liga, a maximum nine points, nine goals scored and none conceded. All of that is a far cry from the doom and gloom that ensued after the 5-1 aggregate loss to Real Madrid in the Spanish Supercopa last mont—and it is made better by the fact that Los Blancos have already dropped four points in the Primera Division this term.

It was not only Messi, either. Valverde's 4-4-2 formation looked effective in the derby, with Ivan Rakitic and Sergio Busquets both impressive in midfield, summer signing Nelson Semedo looking like a good buy with another polished performance at right-back and Suarez scoring on his return from injury with the Catalan club.

This was easily Barca's best display of a season that had started amid depression following the sale of Neymar, failure to bring in players like Marco Verratti and Philippe Coutinho and the predictable fallout from the two Clasico losses.

And if the performance gave reasons for positivity to the Camp Nou crowd and the millions of Barca fans watching elsewhere in the world, so too did the debutants as Paulinho did well in his short time on the pitch and Ousmane Dembele came off the bench to assist Suarez for the team's fifth of the night.

So, plenty of positives and Valverde, for the first time in his coaching career, has kicked off a Liga campaign with three straight wins, although there will of course be tougher tests ahead than Betis, Alaves and Espanyol.

All-Pro Donald ends holdout, reports to Rams without new deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—All-Pro defensive lineman Aaron Donald reported to the Los Angeles Rams on Saturday, ending his four-month holdout without getting a new contract.

Donald passed his physical when he reported to the Rams' training complex in Thousand Oaks, but the three-time Pro Bowl selection will not play in the season opener at the Coliseum against Indianapolis on Sunday. Coach Sean McVay ruled him out for the opener Friday.

Donald stayed away from the Rams starting in May, holding out through offseason team activities, training camp and the entire preseason while attempting to get a lucrative new contract. The Rams agreed that Donald deserved a pay raise after just three standout seasons, and they held months of civil negotiations with the star's representatives.

The sides couldn't reach a deal, but they intend to continue talks even with Donald back in uniform, the Rams announced.

Donald will be on the Rams' active roster Sunday despite not playing. The franchise is expected to receive a roster exemption from the NFL that will allow them to pay Donald without cutting a player from their 53-man roster before Monday.

Donald is scheduled to make $1.8 million this year and $6.9 million in 2018 under the terms of his rookie deal. Even the Rams agree that the rookie scale contract isn't reflective of Donald's status as one of the NFL's most effective players at any position.

Donald is seeking a contract that would make him the NFL's highest-paid defensive player. By reporting this week, he avoided any chance of preseason injury, and he also won't miss any game checks from the Rams, who appear determined to stay on Donald's good side by not fining him or taking any other punitive actions.

KONQER

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Phair came in third at 38:53.

Patrick praised the organizers with the course layout and last Saturday's rainy weather became an additional challenge to all. "The course on Saipan was fantastic. I can't think of a better way to see some of this beautiful island."

"The two swim portions were impacted by the windy weather producing a counter current and making the course a little more challenging. Of course, the obstacles were a work of art designed by a mad genius. They are inherently challenging, add water and mud and they become more difficult," Patrick added.

This was Patrick's second win after also topping the two-day race in Palau—Peleliu and Koror. He is now looking forward to the Guam leg of the three-circuit race, which is set for Oct. 15 at the Gov. Flores Memorial Park in Tumon Bay. Patrick won the Palau Solo Sprint division with a time of 3:38:47, while Park was ninth at 5:18:27. The Leatherbacks, a USMC team, finished second in the Relay Sprint (3:14:12), also in Palau.

Meanwhile, the Marianas Outrigger Club, which used the race in preparing for their three title defense in next month's Micronesian Cup in Guam, ruled the Business League with a time of 50:10, while Gold's Gym came in at second (1:01:22) and Tao Tao Bud 670 placed third (1:02:56).

The race began at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and participants had to overcome the run-swim-run-swim legs before heading toward Puerto Rico for the main obstacle's layout at the Gov. Inos Peace Park, which has a height of 80 feet.

From the final swim portion, a few hundred meters from the sea wall, competitors made their way to the main obstacle course entrance and ran all the way to the top. Tires were also scattered on the racecourse as they made their way atop the Peace Park.

COMPETITORS

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sure everybody completes the race, so we're really working together in every obstacle," Buenaflor said.

"When you know your teammates and other participants are there to back you up and help you go through the obstacle, you're not afraid to fall and commit mistakes," said the sexagenarian Dan Calvo.

Tania Tan, one of the more than 30 Saipan International School students who braved KONQER Saipan, also had a rough time completing most of the intimidating obstacles in her first try, but she soldiered on and kept trying until she reached the finish line.

"Some of the courses did in fact intimidate me, such as the 15-foot wall and the 'V' shaped monkey bars. As the weather was not at its best as well, the obstacle course was very slippery, muddy, and wet making it even more difficult to accomplish. Our team was able to survive through it with all the support we gave each other and the cheering from the crowd. Those aspects motivated us to keep going and trying to complete the course," the SIS junior said, adding that competing in KONQER Saipan also taught her life lessons.

"No matter how hard it may get at times, if one perseveres and believes that she can do it, she will be able to accomplish her goals. Our whole team gave as much support throughout the course. We always encouraged each another and were optimistic about overcoming the obstacles and achieving them," Tan said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	81	61	.570	—
New York	76	65	.539	4½
Baltimore	71	71	.500	10
Tampa Bay	70	73	.490	11½
Toronto	65	77	.458	16

Central Division

Cleveland	86	56	.606	—
Minnesota	74	68	.521	12
Kansas City	70	71	.496	15½
Detroit	60	81	.426	25½
Chicago	55	86	.390	30½

West Division

Houston	86	56	.606	—
Los Angeles	72	70	.507	14
Texas	71	70	.504	14½
Seattle	71	71	.500	15
Oakland	62	80	.437	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	87	54	.617	—
Miami	68	73	.482	19
Atlanta	62	78	.443	24½
New York	62	79	.440	25
Philadelphia	53	88	.376	34

Central Division

Chicago	77	64	.546	—
St. Louis	73	68	.518	4
Milwaukee	73	68	.518	4
Pittsburgh	67	75	.472	10½
Cincinnati	61	81	.430	16½

West Division

Los Angeles	92	49	.652	—
Arizona	82	59	.582	10
Colorado	76	65	.539	16
San Diego	64	78	.451	28½
San Francisco	56	87	.392	37

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fab4 noses out HiDaze in women's finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fab4 withstood HiDaze's late rally to pull off a 10-8 victory in the women's division finals of the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sisters Eleina and Annalei Santos delivered the points for Fab4 in the homestretch to foil HiDaze's comeback bid and rule the four-team field.

Fab4 once enjoyed a 7-2 advantage behind the 6 straight markers of Eleina, but was threatened in the last two of the 10-minute title match when Chevy Kate Alipio and Mark Kay Alferos teamed up in bringing HiDaze back into contention. Fab 4 was stuck to 7 points, while a layup from Alferos off Alipio's feed moved HiDaze within one, 7-6.

Eleina then gave Fab4 more breathing room, 8-6, when she drove baseline and slipped past Alipio before pulling off for a banked shot against the outstretch arms of the much smaller Alferos. However, HiDaze refused to give up with Alferos drilling her third straight basket to close the gap anew, 7-8.

A free throw from Eleina put Fab4's advantage back to a deuce, but HiDaze was still persistent and this time Alipio was the one who knocked in the shot to keep her team's title hopes alive, down to the last 20 seconds of the finals.

Just behind by one, HiDaze focused its defense on the streaking Eleina in Fab4's next offensive play after Alipio missed on a potential game-tying free throw. Eleina then drew HiDaze's defense before dropping the ball to her sister Annalei in the paint. Annalei, who earlier figured in a shoving incident with HiDaze's Cassandra Camacho, barreled her way through the defense of the latter, but overshot her mark. Fortunately, the burly Annalei got the offensive rebound, went up for a banked shot, and this time drilled the insurance, 3 seconds left in the game.

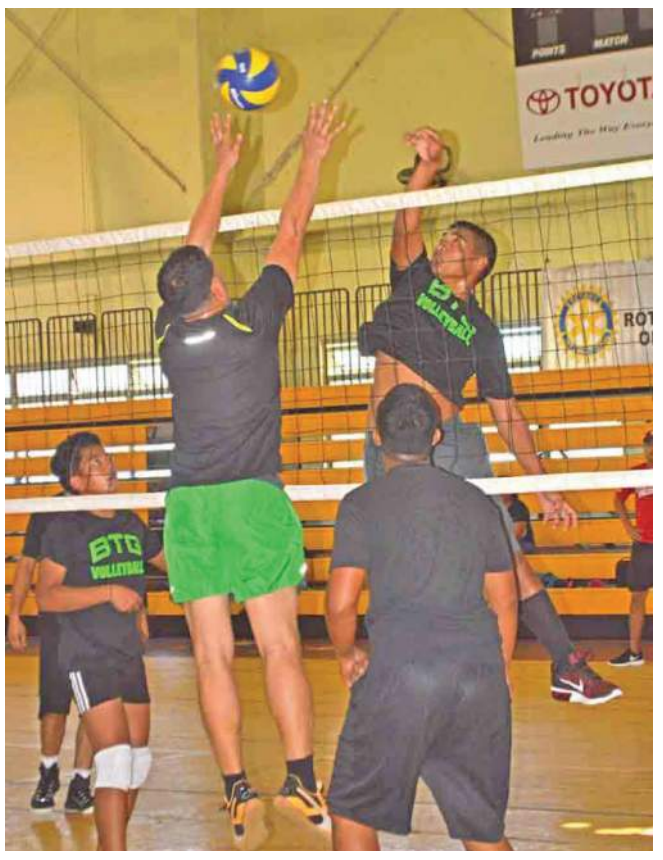
Now down by 2, HiDaze was pressured to take a shot from beyond the arc to tie the match. However, HiDaze failed to pull up for one, as Alferos' pass to Alipio was a bit strong and hit the latter's knee. Alipio scrambled to recover the ball and lost precious seconds in doing so, allowing Fab4 to keep the close win and the title in the Saipan leg of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games qualifier.

Despite the loss, HiDaze will join Fab4 in the finale of the Hoopfest Marianas where finalists in the Tinian and Rota legs will also play for the right to represent the CNMI to the Mini Games in Vanuatu this December. HiDaze advanced to the division finals after slipping past CTSI in the morning game last Saturday, 7-6. Fab4, which was unbeaten in the tournament, had a free pass to the title match after winning via forfeit against Blue Babes.

Meanwhile, results in the boys U16 and U19 divisions and the men's open categories will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fab4's Eleina Santos pulls up for a shot against HiDaze's Chevy Kate Alipio during their title game in the women's open division of the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Indoor volleyball tourney kicks off tomorrow



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A BTG player spikes the ball, while Holy Set's Jeff Riman attempts to block it during a tournament last May at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The inaugural Danny Borlain's Indoor Volleyball Classic will kick off tomorrow, starting at 6:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tournament will have two divisions—men's and women's—and will be held from Sept. 12 to 29.

Each team can field a minimum of eight players and a maximum of 10. The final submission of team rosters is on opening day and teams must settle their registration fees ($70 for 10 players/$50 for eight) before they are allowed to play.

Saipan Volleyball is hosting the tournament and organizers are expecting at least eight teams in each division. Under-18 players are required to secure a signature from their parent or legal guardian before they can play in the tournament.

This is the second straight tournament organized by Saipan Volleyball after the group held a 4-person coed beach volleyball competition last month. The first one was a fundraising contest held at Sandy Beach to prepare for the indoor volleyball event. An indoor volleyball tournament was held last May, a fundraiser for the CNMI team's participation in the Micronesian Baseball Classic in Guam this year.

BTG and All About That Ace ruled the men's and women's divisions in the 2017 MBC Fundraising Volleyball Tournament. Both teams were undefeated in the tournament to claim the crowns in their respective divisions. ***(Jon Perez)***

Junior tennis players lead August awardees

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI National Junior Tennis Team, led by Carol Lee and Ji Min Woo, headlined the list of athletes that earned monthly honors from Northern Marianas Sports Association.

The youth netters gained the Team of the Month (for August) plum after their impressive showing in last month's Pacific Oceania Junior Championships as they gave the CNMI the Nations Cup. The team beat perennial contender and 2014 and 2015 winners Tahiti, 650 to 640. Malika Miyawaki, Grace Choi, Michael Ren, Vincent Tudela, Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, Sean Lee, Seung Jin Paik, Richard Steele, sisters Conatsu and Coume Kaga, siblings Maria and Anthony Gregoire, Daniel Kang, and Hyejin Elliot joined Lee and Woo on the team coached by multi-titled mentor Jeff Race.

Lee was also named NMSA/TSL Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Month after a double-gold medal performance in Fiji. She both won the girls' singles and doubles—with compatriot Miyawaki—events. She made Pacific Oceania history by winning her fifth junior title (U12 in 2013, U14 in 2014, and U16 in 2015 to 2017). Her performance also pushed her up the International Tennis Federation junior world rankings at No. 208 after she reached the quarterfinals of the Oceania Closed Junior Championships.

Woo, on the other hand, bagged the Male Student of the Month honors following a bronze medal win in the boys' singles and doubles (with Paik) in the POJC. Woo got the distinction of defeating POJC gold medalist Christopher Ma'asi of Samoa twice.

Meanwhile, Zarinae Sapong and Tyce Mister earned the Female and Male Athletes of the Month awards, respectively, for their exploits in separate international competitions.

Sapong recorded a new personal best time in the 100-meter sprint by shaving off 0.06 milliseconds (from 13.35 seconds to 13.29) in last month's International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London.

Mister, on the other hand, competed in the Leadville Trail 100 MTB in Leadville in Colorado. He finished 406th out of the more than 1,000 that managed to complete the 100-mile mountain bike race, which started at 10,500 feet and climbed to over 12,000 feet.

Leadville MTB, one of the world's toughest bike races, is also an event for a cause as proceeds from the competition fund scholarships of local kids going to college. Beneficiaries then return to Leadville to serve the community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee won the NMSA/TSL Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Month (for August) award for ruling the girls U16 singles and doubles events of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held in Fiji.

Abreu first White Sox to hit cycle in 17 years

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Stephens tops Keys for 1st Grand Slam title

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JON V. PEREZ
Team Bank of Guam members celebrate after crossing the finish line in last Saturday's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico.

KONQER participants survive

JON V. PEREZ
Kathy Pagapular-Ruszala goes under a log to clear one of the obstacles in last Saturday's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saturday's weather made it more challenging for participants of the inaugural KONQER Saipan King of the Hill to brave the elements and overcome the punishing obstacle course layout.

In the end, two United States Marine Corps members and a Saipan resident swept past their competitors and obliterated the course as they claimed the Top 3 in the Enduro division of the race held at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico.

Completion, Sprints, and Business used by companies or employers for team building exercises for their employees—were the other categories in the event where close to 500 were able to finish the taxing race.

USMC Maj. Timothy Patrick was the fastest in taming the 2.16-kilometer course—that also had a 32-meter incline—with an unofficial time of 37:08, followed by Gunnery Sgt. Justin Park's 38:36. Saipan resident Joel

See KONQER on Page 26

Competitors showcase teamwork, perseverance

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Teamwork and perseverance were in full display in last Saturday's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill as hundreds completed the obstacle course race made even tougher by the rainy weather.

Don Cabrera finished the course ahead of his friends, but instead of leaving the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park to clean up as he was covered with mud, he stayed and helped them survive the obstacles. He shouted instructions to his friends having difficulty tackling the monkey bars and gave others a lift to climb a couple of walls.

"We came here together, we will finish together. Once I am done, I knew I could show them how to get through the obstacle the much easier way. I don't want to leave them behind, so I came back and helped them," said Cabrera.

One of Cabrera's teammates did the same thing to not one, but two other participants, letting them climb the wall first. A female participant stepped on his back and then shoulder to go up in the last wall along the course, while the former's companion was next, getting a lift from the former's hands.

Over at the 15-foot wall, Rommel Buenaflor and his fellow Triathlon Association of the CNMI members formed a human ladder to help children and other young participants reach the top. They also teamed up in holding the back of their not so young member as he tackled the cross bar.

"Though we were in the race, we were still concern of our and others' safety, especially the children, so we helped them out. They tend to be careless because they are so excited, so we watched out for them. As for our TRAC members, we want to make

See COMPETITORS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Two male participants in last Saturday's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill pull up their teammate.